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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 104

MONDAY MAY 3, 2010

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Sunday, May 02, 2010

INSIDE



Budget Cuts

Greece is announcing a new round of sweeping spending cuts through 2012.

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Red Rally

Tens of thousands of former communist rebels and their supporters rallied demanding Nepal's coalition government be disbanded and replaced by a Maoist-led government.

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China Trails

Coming to Shanghai on the eve of Expo 2010 is like going to NYC's Macy's (or, Joeten, for us locals) on Christmas Eve.

Life & Style...Page 19

NMC incurs nearly \$50K in consultation fee. **PAGE 2**
Aquino-Roxas supporters for RP elections hold motorcade. **PAGE 3**

House resolution urges US, Japan to consider Tinian as Futenma relocation site

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After a brief debate, the House of Repre-

sentatives adopted on Friday a resolution urging the U.S. Department of Defense and Japan to consider Tinian as the best relocation site for up to 4,000 troops

from the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station at Futenma in Okinawa.

The House's adoption of Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) House

Resolution 17-11 came exactly two weeks after the Senate adopted a similar resolution introduced by Senate Vice

See **HOUSE** on Page 4

Proposed long-term status for aliens in CNMI stirs clash of views

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The labor and immigration debate rages on yet again.

While mostly nonresidents and their supporters hail the U.S. Department of the Interior's recommendation to the U.S. Congress last week to allow the granting of long-term status for alien workers who have legally resided in the CNMI for at least five years, some from the local community oppose granting permanent residency or U.S. citizenship



TASTE OF THE MARIANAS

Te Kanahau Nui dance troupe members entertain a big crowd with their traditional Polynesian dances at the 12th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the American Memorial Park on Saturday night. The event will also be held on May 8, 15, 22, and 29 to highlight the 2010 CNMI Tourism Month. Inset shows D'Elegance Café employees in their winning food booth, in the first ever Marianas hut decorating competition for their creative use of natural and recycled materials.

See story on Page 6

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Local

NMC incurs nearly \$50K in consultation fee

» Cabot Mantanona
billing double
amount of
original contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

and professional services—or a total obligation not to exceed \$25,000.

In the beginning of the deliberation, it was not initially disclosed how much “excess” cost has been billed to the college. It was only after an inquiry by regent Charles V. Cepeda, who participated through teleconference, that the \$24,557 “extra cost” was revealed.

“What we have signed and was approved by AG was a \$25,000 contract. I am just surprised that Cabot Mantanona continued the work. Is there a go-ahead to proceed given to the law firm?” Cepeda asked, expressing his strong opposition to pay the extra cost which the board has not approved.

In Friday’s regular meeting of the NMC Board of Regents, interim president Lorraine Cabrera presented to the board a statement of account received from the consultant which indicated an excess of \$24,557 for the work it performed.

Fernandez’s case was considered resolved after the board decided to terminate her on April 12, exactly three months after her suspension.

The original contract, which was concurred by the Attorney General’s Office on Feb. 25, calls for NMC to pay Cabot Mantanona \$175 per hour for the preparation of documents

ready paid to the law firm.

‘Proposal to amend the original contract?’

Regents’ chairwoman Janet Han King explained to the board that Cabot Mantanona was asking an amendment to the original contract of \$25,000.

But Cepeda and other board members were quick to respond that the work has already been performed and the process of requesting for an amendment is somewhat “late.”

They even cited the payment made by the college of the \$25,000 contract.

“But all the work has been done, correct?” Cepeda said during the deliberation.

When asked about his opinion, college and the board legal counsel on other legal matters, Jesus Borja, said any changes on the provisions such as the price should have been reflected as amendments to the contract to be signed prior to the fulfillment of the tasks.

Borja cited his own contract with the college for many years.

Other members who made the same inquiries and clarification on the excess amount from Cabot Mantanona included vice chairwoman Paz Younis, Andrew Orsini, Frank Rabauliman, and Elaine Orilla. Malua Peter was excused from Friday’s meeting.

“I was not privy of the billing before this meeting. My understanding was they will submit proposal to the board...I didn’t expect the bill,” Cabrera told the board, adding that billing was dated April 30.

However, it was not directly answered the regents’ question if there was any “go-ahead” signal given to the law firm and who made it.

Saipan Tribune learned that the \$25,000 contract was al-

TWO

From Page 1

The trash fire at a Tuturam pit on Saturday afternoon prompted the Emergency Management Office to issue a smoke hazard advisory, urging residents of Tuturam, San Vicente, Lau Lau, and Dandan to take precautionary measures by staying indoors especially those having respiratory problems.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday disclosed that the Chalan Kanoa bushfire that began Friday afternoon scattered due to strong winds.

David said the bushfire spread all the way down to Atom’s Auto Shop, then also burned a house belonging to the family of Tony Rios.

David said the blaze also affected a few other houses and about two more auto shops.

David said that, on Saturday night the same fire scattered to As Perdido area.

He said he has no other information about the As Perdido blaze.

David said he learned that one person was transported to the CHC due to breathing problem believed to be caused by smoke.

With respect to the trash fire at Tuturam Pit on Saturday afternoon, EMO said the heavy smoke along with some small particles might present health threat to residents of San Vicente, LauLau, Dandan, and Tuturam.

EMO said the winds blowing westward brought heavy smoke and particles to the residents.

“However, residents were advised to take precautionary measures, especially those with respiratory problems to stay indoors,” EMO said in its advisory on Saturday.

EMO, the Division of Environmental Quality, Department of Public Health, and DPS Fire Division monitored the Tuturam fire.

DPS is expected to release more information about the fires today, Monday.



Aquino-Roxas supporters for RP elections hold motorcade

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Supporters on Saipan of Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Mar Roxas, the candidates for president and vice president of the Philippines, respectively, held a motorcade rally yesterday afternoon.

The supporters, led by Edgar Genobaten of H&R Block, started to converge in front of Gold Beach Hotel south of Garapan at 3pm.

Genobaten handed flyers, streamers, placards, and yellow campaign balloons and T-shirts to the participants.

After a group photo in front of the hotel, Genobaten led the convoy of the 17-vehicle motorcade along Beach Road at 4pm.

The convoy's destination—Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio, Koblerville, airport, American Memorial Park, and back to Gold Beach Hotel.

Genobaten said the motorcade is their show of support to the Liberal Party standard-bearers Aquino and Roxas for the May 10 elections.

He said the participants volunteered their time and spent own gas expenses as the Liberal Party did not give them financial budget.

"We believe in Aquino and Roxas. They have all the characteristics of good leaders who will bring changes to our country. They are not corrupt," Genobaten said.

Aquino and Roxas, both senators, have consistently topped many presidential and vice presidential surveys in the Philippines.

Aquino is the only son of the late president Corazon Aquino and former senator Benigno Aquino Jr.

There are 10 candidates for president, eight for vice president, 61 for senators, and 187 for party list in the election.

The Aquino-Roxas supporters on Saipan also threw their hats to BANDILA for party list.

Last April 10 was the first day of the overseas absentee voting for registered Filipino voters in the CNMI.

There are 7,169 registered Filipino voters in the CNMI. But the number is much lower due to many workers who had already left the CNMI.

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Saipan supporters of Benigno Aquino III and Mar Roxas, Liberal Party standard-bearers for president and vice president, held a 17-vehicle motorcade yesterday afternoon.

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HOUSE**From Page 1**

President Jude U. Hofsneider's (R-Tinian) S.R. 17-17 on April 16.

Mostly Republican House members voiced concerns on the socio-economic and political impacts of relocating thousands of U.S. troops to Tinian.

In the end, however, H.R. 17-11 passed on unanimous vote. Eighteen of the 20 House members were present at the time of voting on Friday.

Two-thirds of Tinian, one of the major islands in the CNMI, is leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Rep. Ramon "Ray" Tebuteb (R-Saipan) questioned H.R. 17-11's assertion that "representatives from the government of Japan" visited Tinian to personally hear the island's support to the troop relocation, as well as a statement that the CNMI as a whole welcome the troops.

PROPOSED**From Page 1**

to foreign workers.

The Fitial administration, at the same time, is questioning the Interior's decision to submit its report and recommendation to Congress without first presenting a copy to the CNMI government for review.

A copy of the report may be viewed at www.doi.gov/oa/reports/reportsCNMI.html.

"Why were we not given a chance to comment on the report and recommendation before they gave it to Congress?" said Press Secretary Angel Demapan on Saturday.

Demapan added that key administration officials will meet today to come up with an official position on the Interior recommendation.

In the House of Representatives session on Friday afternoon, Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) told her colleagues about her plan to introduce a resolution opposing the Interior recommendation.

Ogumoro was among the lawmakers and Cabinet officials present in the governor's conference room when Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta personally presented the report to Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos that same afternoon.

Babauta told CNMI officials that they can submit comments to the U.S. Congress.

Businessman Juan T. Guerrero said the report and recommendation will help stop the confusion on the status of alien workers in the CNMI.

Guerrero, a former gubernatorial candidate and former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said "it will be more productive if the governor works with the federal government and not work against it, and to maximize the full potential of the partnership not only for alien workers but also for the local workers and the CNMI economy."

"It doesn't matter whether we agree or disagree. It doesn't matter anymore because this is now a federal matter. We have to move on. This has been in discussion for a long time, let's move on and live with it," he said.

Long overdue

Former Rota teacher and now Florida-based human rights advocate Wendy Doromal said it is in the best interest of the CNMI leaders and the Fitial administration to embrace the key message of the report.

"Are these accurate statements?" Tebuteb asked Tenorio, who personally met with the visiting lawmakers from Japan's Socialist Democratic Party.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) said even if the resolution is adopted, the relocation of troops to Tinian is still a "long shot."

Conner and Tenorio echoed the Fitial administration's position that any troop relocation to the CNMI will only happen if and when the U.S. government approves it.

Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) cautioned the CNMI against being used as a "political pawn" by some factions in Japan.

The Futenma relocation to Tinian is being pushed by Japan's Social Democratic Party, which wants the Japanese government to include this in forthcoming talks with the U.S. government on the 2006 agreement on the realignment of U.S. troops in

the region.

"This resolution is not a guarantee that they will relocate here. Palau is also shooting in the dark when they passed a resolution to relocate the Futenma base to Palau. Hopefully with this resolution, they will consider relocating the Futenma to Tinian," said Conner, referring to the jobs creation and other economic benefits.

But just like other lawmakers, Conner said the impacts on the environment, infrastructure, and residents will be balanced with the economic benefits.

The two-page resolution, pre-filed on April 27 and adopted on April 30, states that over 60 years ago, the U.S. established a military base on Tinian designed to support more than 40,000 military personnel.

When the CNMI became a part of the United States, two-thirds of lands on Tinian was leased to the U.S. Department of Defense for 100 years in anticipation of the reopening of the

defense facilities.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said the island has long been waiting for economic benefits from the increased use of the defense facilities on Tinian.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) questioned why Tinian would want the Futenma base when Okinawans want it out of their area because of safety issues and negative impacts on their tourism.

On April 10 and 11, SDP lawmaker Kantoku Teruya, who chairs the Japanese Diet Affairs Council and SDP's Okinawa Base Affairs Team, and Okinawa Prefectural Assembly Speaker Zenshin Takamine, also of SDP, visited Saipan and Tinian.

The Japanese lawmakers were able to hear directly from Tinian residents and officials, particularly their support to SDP's proposal to relocate up to 4,000 U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Tinian.

The Fitial administration, however, maintains that the final decision to relo-

cate thousands of U.S. troops to Tinian rests with the U.S. government.

CUC bill

The House also passed on Friday Senate Bill 17-18, which clarifies an ambiguity regarding the authority of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s to set utility rates until such time as the Public Utilities Commission issues an order setting rates, fees, charges or rents for a utility service.

Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) S.B. 17-18 now heads to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The House speaker told his colleagues that the governor wanted the bill prioritized.

After going on recess on Friday noon, the House resumed its session in the afternoon and passed the bill.

Members debated on the bill. In the end, the bill passed on an 18-6 vote. Those who voted no were mostly Republicans.

She quoted Interior's recommendation: "Consistent with the goals of comprehensive immigration reform, we recommend that the Congress consider permitting alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for a minimum period of five years to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States."

Doromal said the time for Congress to grant status "is truly long overdue."

"It is especially crucial for those foreign workers with U.S. citizen children and those who have lived longer in the CNMI than in their homelands and have nothing or no one to return to if they have to leave. A just and democratic federal guest worker program that regards long-term foreign workers as future citizens will benefit all who live and work in the CNMI," she added.

Doromal also said that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial argued in federal court that by 2014, P.L. 110-229 will leave the Commonwealth without the workforce needed to ensure economic success.

"However, by granting the long-term foreign workers a pathway to citizenship, a skilled and loyal workforce will be available. If governor Fitial really believes what he stated in his lawsuit, then he will fight for the foreign workers to be given status immediately so that the CNMI can improve the quality of life for all residents, and bring stability to the islands which will attract foreign investors and improve the economy," said Doromal.

Fitial was not feeling well on Friday, so he was not able to personally receive a copy of the Interior report.

Doromal said key members of the U.S. Congress are already aware of this matter, and received the petitions and letters in March.

"I think it is important to continue to distinguish between illegal aliens in the U.S. mainland and the legal foreign contract workers in the CNMI. There should be no need for Congress to wait to take action on this or to delay to include this with comprehensive immigration reform. Congress needs to address this issue now, and we need to convey the urgency," she said.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said the CNMI's alien workers entered the CNMI legally and are lawfully residing and working here. He said they are part of the U.S. system, citing their Social Security number and their economic contributions.

He said the CNMI alien worker population should be distinguished from

the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the U.S.

Taotao Tano

Greg Cruz, president of the local advocacy group TaoTao Tano, said yesterday that the group has no problems with anyone wanting citizenship or any type of status so long as the administrative process through the appropriate channels is followed.

"I say this for it seems like the Department of Interior, Federal Ombudsman, and now our very own U.S. Congressional Delegate Gregorio 'Kilili' Sablan are in favor and fully supporting such a recommendation to U.S. Congress," said Cruz, when asked for comments.

Cruz said CNMI people must ask important and direct questions to individuals pursuing such recommendations to include their motives in the "granting of an across-the-board citizenship or permanent residency."

He cited five questions, including the consequences to the CNMI people and the future generations' social and cultural well-being, and the impacts on infrastructure such as water and power, and the economy.

"Is the CNMI being used to push a political agenda? And is it fair for those millions of individuals that had gone through the administrative process legally, or are still waiting in line to obtain their citizenship? Can U.S. Congress actually bypass U.S. border control laws? Do the people of the CNMI fully understand what the federal agencies and our own U.S. congressional delegate's intentions are?" Cruz said.

'Shock'

Juan Sablan of the Commonwealth Retirees Association said as of this time, many in the local community are silent about the Interior report and recommendation but this does not mean they are supporting or opposing it.

"This comes as a shock to them. Maybe they're still waiting for something to happen, for their officials to do something, and then they will start reacting," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday at the Taste of the Marianas in Garapan.

Henry Torres questioned both the Interior's use of the U.S. Virgin Islands as precedent to its proposal to grant long-term status to aliens in the CNMI, and its impact on the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian population.

"(Tony) Babauta already made a mistake," he said. "I thought that we'll only maintain the workers here only

until 2014, why give them long-term status? I don't have anything against nonresident workers but this recommendation is confusing."

The Interior report states that a precedent for Congress granting long-term status to nonimmigrant workers was set by Public Law 97-271 in 1982, but added that this is not necessarily an appropriate specific model for a provision for the CNMI.

This was when Congress gave more than 20,000 legal, long-time alien workers in the U.S. Virgin Islands the opportunity to apply for U.S. permanent residence. These alien workers had been in the territory for more than seven years on continuous residence.

Taotao Tano's Greg Cruz also said that the CNMI is "but a tiny speck on the globe and certainly we are not the Virgin Islands and we must not allow our island to be used as a testing ground for 'amnesty' across-the-board as in the case of over 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States still waiting for U.S. Congress to act on their demands of U.S. citizenship."

Torres also blames the local government for not enforcing its labor and immigration law, and for allowing the federal government to enforce its laws.

"But now that it's already in the U.S. Congress, I now leave it up to them on what to do with Interior's recommendation," he said.

Chai Sablan echoed Torres' concerns. She said the U.S. Congress should listen to the local population too.

Anthony Sablan said foreign workers should "go home when their contracts expire."

"You came here to work, not seek U.S. citizenship," he added.

Permanent residency, US citizenship

Interior submitted its report to the U.S. Congress on Thursday in Washington, D.C. or Friday morning on Saipan.

OIA's Babauta presented the report to CNMI officials on Friday afternoon.

U.S. Public Law 110-220 or the federalization law gives the Interior until May 10, 2010 to submit the report. It contains data on the alien population in the CNMI, as well as recommendations for long-term status for the alien population.

Interior recommends that thousands of alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for a minimum of five years be allowed to apply for long-term status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

These include conferring outright

U.S. citizenship on these long-term aliens by an act of Congress, or granting them permanent residency status leading to U.S. citizenship, among five examples of improved immigration statuses Interior gave to Congress.

Babauta said it would now be up to Congress whether to act on the Interior recommendation or go another route.

In a statement later, Babauta said the report represents the continued support of the federal government in the development of the CNMI, both politically and economically.

"It also illustrates and acknowledges that the growth of the Commonwealth will require the continued presence of alien workers," he said.

'Respect Interior's recommendation'

"The CNMI government should respect the decision of the federal government. It's also favorable to the CNMI because it will now have steady population of skilled foreign labor," said Ramon Awit, one of the advisers of the United Filipino Organization.

He said most long-term foreign workers have invested in the CNMI, and will be investing more should they be allowed to apply for a long-term status.

"More taxes will be paid, more money to be invested here, and there will no longer be hassles of yearly contract renewal," he said.

Lito Espino, a Filipino contract worker, called on the CNMI government not to block any longer a proposal to improve the immigration status of foreign workers.

"This will put a stop to confusion in the community about the status of nonresident. Isn't that what the CNMI government also wants? Stop the confusion? Respect the report and recommendation," he said.

Tibu Perdasa, a jeweler from Sri Lanka, said Interior's recommendation is "good news" and hopes that the U.S. Congress will confer U.S. citizenship to legal alien workers in the CNMI.

Guo Jun Miao, who has a long-term business permit, said with improved status for legal alien workers, the CNMI economy will improve. He said more will invest in the CNMI, including leasing lands for homes instead of forever renting apartments or putting up businesses.

"CNMI people may not like it but the federal government is now in control of immigration. They should not stop the federal government on what it wants to do because it's good for everyone here," said the businessman from China.

OIA's Babauta signs \$350K grant to update tourism plan of CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Besides presenting a mandated report on the status of alien workers in the CNMI, Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta also signed on Friday a \$350,000 grant for the CNMI to update its 2006-2010 tourism plan.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs notifi-

Earthquake jolts CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted the CNMI yesterday morning.

The Emergency Management Office said there was no tsunami threat to the Marianas. No damage to property or injuries was reported to the EMO.

Saipan Tribune learned that residents on Tinian and Rota felt the quake that occurred at 9:58am.

EMO said the earthquake was centered at latitude 14.933 degrees north and 145.423 degrees east, Saipan region.

EMO said this is about 25 miles southwest of Saipan, 100 miles southwest of Anatahan, and 55 miles north northeast of Rota.

Many Saipan residents said the quake was a little bit strong so they immediately monitored the radio whether there would be a tsunami warning.

On Tinian, a police officer said he was driving his vehicle so he did not feel the quake. His colleagues, however, felt the quake.

On Rota, a police officer said when the quake occurred he remained indoors, but three firefighters ran outside the building.

"It's an average earthquake. We did not receive any call for injuries or damage to property," the officer told *Saipan Tribune*.

cation of grant award, witnessed by Cabinet officials and lawmakers in the governor's conference room on Capitol Hill.

Babauta said the \$350,000 grant is provided to the Marianas Visitors Authority's "Northern Mariana Islands Strategic Initiative for 2006-2010."

MVA earlier revised its 2006-2010 goal of having one million visitor arrivals by Fiscal Year 2010 to 750,000, due to modest growth from major markets, and global and local economic woes, among other things.

"We understand the Tourism Master Plan is critical for decisions about marketing strategies, improving CNMI visitor offerings, and assisting the CNMI to become more competitive in global tourism markets," Babauta said in a letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The tourism plan will consist of three fundamental compo-

nents: developing the tourism framework, developing the tourism master plan, and achieving the plan.

Tourism is now the sole economic driver for the CNMI after the demise early last year of the once thriving garment industry which manufactured global brands such as Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Jones New York, Gap, Old Navy, JC Penney, American Eagle, and Abercrombie & Fitch.

Based on the MVA data, visitors arrivals to the CNMI peaked at 726,690 in 1997 but have since declined in the succeeding years due to the Asian economic crisis, the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Afghan war, the Japan Airlines pullout from the CNMI in October 2005, and the H1N1 flu scare this year. Arrivals totaled 375,808 in FY 2009, which ended on Sept. 30, 2009.

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Hundreds of locals, tourists grace food festival kickoff

» Elegance Café wins booth decorating contest

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds of tourists and community members trooped to American Memorial Park Saturday night to take part in the kickoff activities for the 12th Annual

Taste of Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio welcomed guests and spectators to the festival that will last throughout the month. He specifically lauded the consistent involvement and participation of the hotel industry since the event's beginning in 1998.

"Since we started this festival in 1998, because of you...we continue to see the

success every year," Tenorio told the crowd.

The Taste of Marianas is the biggest event during the celebration of Tourism Month in May each year.

With Tenorio in the ribbon-cutting ceremonies were Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, members of the Legislature, and other dignitaries and guests.

The popular Chinese dragon dance officially opened the cel-



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Representatives of the winning food booths at the first Marianas hut decorating contest pose with their trophies: first place winner D' Elegance Café; second place winner Fiesta Resort & Spa; and third place winner Ty and Tia. The contest was held at the 12th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden on Saturday night at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

ebration followed by cultural presentations, while hotels began the showcase of their special food menus and delicacies.

The Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden is a celebration of the diversity of the island's peoples and their cultures, showcasing exotic and traditional dishes native to the Marianas, alongside dishes with a more international flare, that are readily prepared by some of the island's best chefs.

To add excitement to the festivities this year, MVA launched the booth decorating competition where all 15 concessionaires were rated based on some criteria.

Elegance Café emerged the top winner in the competition

and was awarded the festival plaque.

Elegance Café, owned by Julieta and Wilson Cunanan, is one of the longest participants in the annual Taste of Marianas.

According to Oscar Yema, committee chairperson for the booth decorating contest, entries were rated based on overall look of the island theme presentation, creativity, originality, use of local and indigenous materials, and use of recyclable materials.

He revealed that besides the Top 3 best huts for the night, MVA will also confer the "most consistent award" at the end of the festival celebration.

Elegance Café used some symbolic features of the island such as the traditional canoe and used recycled colorful papers

and plastics in creating sea creatures. It also utilized bamboo poles, flowers and fauna, and local hats as added attraction to their booths.

Ernie Molina, representative of Elegance Café, lauded the leadership of store managers Leigh David and Rochelle Malit and the members' cooperation and teamwork during the preparation.

The Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, meantime, was named second best hut in the competition, while third price winner was Ty & Tias Tropical. Both entries showcased the island's local fruits and flowers as main attractions on their booths.

Other exciting competitions will be conducted throughout the month, according to MVA.

Atty. Smith sues defunct garment manufacturer

Attorney Eric S. Smith has sued defunct garment manufacturer Grace International Inc. for allegedly refusing to pay his legal services plus costs in the total

amount of \$4,340.44.

Smith asked the Superior Court to order Grace International to pay the sum plus pre-judgment interest.

Smith said that on April 16, 2009, he and the defendant entered into an agreement for his legal representation in connection with a case in federal court.

The lawyer said he assisted the defendant in the assignment of a leasehold interest of its property.

Under the agreement, Smith said, Grace International would pay him attorney's fee at an hourly rate to be paid when payment due on a monthly basis.

Smith said the defendant also agreed to reimburse him for all costs and expenses for reimbursable costs and expenses.

Smith said since Grace International paid him \$972.25 on May 2, 2009, the defendant refused to pay the additional fees and costs that subsequently were incurred.

In January 2010, the federal court ordered the sale of a property occupied by Grace International in Susupe to pay a former garment worker who had won a discrimination lawsuit against the company. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Survey: Students oppose legislation to change NMC name

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Majority of students at Northern Marianas College are opposed to the idea of changing the institution's name, which was recently proposed at the Legislature.

House Bill 17-41 was recently introduced in the House of Representatives that recommends changing NMC's name to Gov. Carlos S. Camacho College. It was authored by Rep. Eliceo Cabrera.

Miles Rodriguez, president of the Associated Students of NMC, revealed that 90 percent of students who participated in the survey conducted last week said they disagreed with the concept.

There were 172 students who took the survey last April 29 and this was from various academic programs offered at the college.

Of the respondents, 90 percent were firm in their opinion to keep the NMC as the institution's name.

"We conducted this survey to submit our recommendation to the interim president who will compile the comments from other parts of the college and submit them to the Legislature," Rodriguez told *Saipan Tribune*.

She added though that despite the disagreement to have it changed, respondents are open to the idea of naming one of the institution's buildings after the former official.

"Although majority of the students did not want the name change, I want to make it clear that the students do not mean disrespect to Gov. Carlos S. Camacho and his contributions to education," she said, adding that some of the most common reasons cited by respondents is financial reason because it would cause NMC so much money to re-advertise the new name of the college, replace the logos, documentations, etc.

"NMC is already widely known as Northern Marianas College, and they are satisfied with that. One of the recommendations from the students includes naming a building in the college after Governor Car-

los S. Camacho to honor his deeds," she added.

Rodriguez believes that the survey provides a substantial account of how students feel and it is a great channel for students to get their voices heard.

Surveys, she said, are truly effective in getting the message across the people they want to persuade.

She lauded the assistance of ASNMC advisor Zenaida Javie and NMC counselor Manny Castro in completing the survey. She also recognized the support of the Dean of Student Services Leo Pangelinan and interim president Lorraine Cabrera in various student activities and their efforts in making sure students' needs are met.

Dandan Elementary School registration starts May 3

Dandan Elementary School registration for school year 2010-2011 is scheduled to begin on May 3, from 8am to 4pm in the main office.

- Kindergarten – May 3-7, 2010
- First grade – May 10-14, 2010
- Second and third grade – May 17-21, 2010
- Fourth and fifth grade – May 24-28, 2010
- Sixth Grade – May 31-June 4, 2010

Registration requirements:

- Birth certificate
- Health Certificate (CHC)
- Health/Accident insurance
- Map of residential location
- Power of attorney/guardianship (if applicable)
- Copy of report card
- Unofficial transcript from last school attended

Should you need more information, please call our main office and ask for Ms. Jessica Borja at telephone number 237-3662. (PR)



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The NMC Foundation would also like to thank the numerous NMC students and staff and community members who volunteered their time to make the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open a great success.

'3 arrested Tinian men are known ice suppliers'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The three men arrested during Thursday's raids on Tinian are known suppliers of "ice," according to the CNMI's joint Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Task force detectives said that based on their information from a "cooperating source," Kurt John B. King, Byron Dela Cruz, and Mike Evangelista are actively selling "ice" on Tinian.

Task force Detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that on Sunday, March 25, a DETF officer on Tinian called him about information that King is an active "ice" distributor on the island.

Camacho said the officer stated that the "cooperating source" is willing to assist law enforcers in conducting a monitored buy-bust operation from King.

Camacho said that, on that same day, the Department of Public Safety and Customs Drug Task Force members conducted a buy-walk operation using the cooperating source.

The detective said the cooperating source managed to purchase \$100 worth of "ice" from King and Dela Cruz outside Dela Cruz's residence in San Jose.

Detective Steven A. Castro

stated in his report that on Sunday, March 25, he and other detectives met a cooperating source on Tinian.

Castro said the cooperating source disclosed that Evangelista is active in selling "ice" on the island.

Castro said using the cooperating source, they managed to buy \$50 worth of "ice" from Evangelista at the defendant's residence in San Jose.

Twenty DETF and DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau agents raided the houses of the defendants on Thursday morning and arrested them.

The defendants were brought to the Superior Court Friday morning for bail hearing. Associate Judge David Wiseman ordered that the bail shall remain at \$30,000 cash bail each for the defendants' temporary liberty.

Shell Marianas is major sponsor of 2010 MMAC

Shell Marianas has become the latest "major sponsor" of the 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer. Major sponsorship status is conferred on companies that donate \$1,000-\$2,999 in cash or services.

"The 2010 MMAC committee affirms their sincere appreciation to the staff and management of Shell Marianas for their untiring support in the fight against cancer. Shell Marianas has continually been a major sponsor of the MMAC and we are grateful for their assistance," said 2010 MMAC public relations committee chairman Christopher A. Concepcion.



The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on May 14-15 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

"The MMAC is the largest cancer fund-raising event in the CNMI. It raises badly needed funds for cancer patient assistance and other cancer programs on island. It is sponsored by the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-driven organization that ensures all funds are spent locally. We were able to raise over \$77,000 at the 2009 MMAC so we hope to surpass that amount this year. We encourage everyone in the community who has been touched by cancer in one way or another to help support the cause by coming down to the 2010 MMAC. Various fund-raising activities will be taking place from 6pm to 6am," said Concepcion.

"We'd like to remind the community that luminaries are still being sold by all 15 MMAC teams for only \$5. Each luminary may be personally designed by the purchaser and will be lit the entire event. You may purchase one to honor a cancer survivor or cancer patient or to remember a loved one who has lost the fight against this terrible affliction. They will be on sale at the 2010 MMAC event up until the luminary ceremony begins," said 2010 MMAC luminary chairwoman Catherine Attao-Toves. For more luminary information email attao20@yahoo.com.

Raffle tickets are also being sold by the 2010 MMAC teams for only \$5 each. "Please support your favorite team by purchasing a raffle ticket which might win you a free trip to the U.S., a free trip to Asia or other travel related items courtesy of title sponsor Delta Air Lines," said Concepcion.

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer is brought to you by title sponsors Bank of Guam, Delta Air Lines, DFS Saipan, Ltd., IT&E, Joeten Charitable Foundation, Sorenson Media Group Saipan and Take Care/FHP. Special thanks to Bank of Saipan, GPPC, Inc., Images Saipan, Ltd., Marianas Medical Center, Marianas Variety, Saipan Mayor's Office, Shell Marianas and Hopwood Junior High School. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 3, 1999

NMC Board adopts rules for aid

The Board of Regents adopted the new set of rules to govern the Spring 1999 Supplemental Grant designed to benefit qualified students of the Northern Marianas College, including recipients of Pell grant. During a board meeting Friday, fiscal committee chairman Ramon Villagomez said students who are not getting Pell grant and are carrying less than 12 credits will receive \$90 for each credit. Those students with 12 to 15 credits will be given \$1,000 for the entire semester, while those carrying the load higher than 15 credits can expect \$1,100 supplemental grant. Students who are recipients of Pell grant will only get \$40 per credit for that semester. Last school year, the Pell grant allocation for each student was \$2,700 and was expected to increase to \$3,000 in the following year.

Tenno seeks probe of ex-officials for misuse of funds

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has ordered the Office of the Attorney General to take immediate action on the recommendations of the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior seeking the prosecution of former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and others for alleged abuse of public funds. The governor said he wrote to acting Atty. General Maya Kara Friday instructing her to review an audit report on the past administration's handling of government money, but refused to give details of the IG audit report. "There are a lot of recommendations," Tenorio said. "One of the recommendations is to refer some of these to the attorney general for investigation."

May 3, 2000

Saipan mayor: We will settle debt to Joeten

The Saipan Mayor's Office will seek an amicable settlement with Joeten Motor Co. Inc. of the \$5,000 debt it owes to the company as final payment for the Sentra car given away as grand prize during the 1999 Liberation Day Celebration. Mayor Jose C. Sablan said payment for the expenses incurred from last year's celebration of the Liberation Day will come from the nearly half-a-million dollars appropriated for the Saipan Mayor's Office to help improve its delivery of services to the community. However, he is still waiting for the legal opinion of the Attorney General's Office to find out whether he can reprogram the funds from the poker license fees collection to pay for the 1999 Liberation Day Celebration expenses.

CDA eyes program to curb increasing delinquency

The Commonwealth Development Authority is eyeing the institution of a program that would help curb the increasing volume of delinquent borrowers in light of worsening economic condition on the island. CDA corporate division officials will sit down today to discuss possible ways to assist borrowers cope with their financial obligation amid hard economic times, according to Development Authority Board Chair John S. Tenorio. The government's major lending arm has been swamped with concerns on the increasing delinquency rate, as well as requests from borrowers for loan restructuring to allow them more time to settle their credit.

May 3, 2001

CDA, BoG sue ex-CPA chair

A local corporation and a Rota-based couple are facing mortgage foreclosure raps for alleged failure to fulfill their part in a debt agreement with the Bank of Guam and the Commonwealth Development Authority. Plaintiffs BoG and CDA are seeking to recover over \$2 million from V's Corporation, Rota residents Victor and Villia Hocog and several defendants yet to be identified on allegations that parties failed to cure their deficit long overdue since January 25, 2001. The lending entities, in a mortgage foreclosure complaint filed at the Superior Court, claimed that the defendants on June 10, 1999 executed and delivered a promissory note to BoG in the principal sum of \$1.7 million.

Conditions set for MVA's use of aviation fuel tax

The Senate is willing to earmark earnings from the aviation fuel tax to fund promotional activities of the Marianas Visitors Authority provided separate tourism offices will be established each for Tinian and Rota. Senators are anticipated to meet with their counterparts in the House of Representatives to discuss a possible compromise agreement, seen to pacify conflicting views of both houses of the Legislature on how to revive CNMI's tourism industry. While both chambers are one in working out a way to alleviate the travel sector's condition, they differ in opinion on how to effectively achieve their goals faster.



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INVITATION FOR BID NMHC IFB 2010-R-003

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **Construction of the Tinian Amphitheater Parking Lot Infiltration System** in San Jose Village, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Technical Specifications, Plans and Bid Documents will be available on or after Monday, May 03, 2010, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as required by the CNMI law/Federal law, whichever is higher.

A pre-bid conference will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 27, 2010**, at the Tinian Amphitheater in San Jose Village, Tinian and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked "NMHC IFB2010-R-003". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Monday, June 07, 2010**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, June 07, 2010 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than June 07, 2010, AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 16, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 17, 2010. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., local time, June 07, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "**Construction of the Tinian Amphitheater Parking Lot Infiltration System**". Surely companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the NMIAc §70.30.3.301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US\$500.00) per calendar day.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R) funding provided to the Commonwealth that mandates ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE BUILDING/WORK MUST BE MANUFACTURED OR PRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

This project which goal is to provide economic stimulus as well as jobs creation is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/
Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



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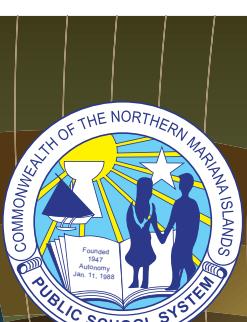
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"Students First"



*A teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity, knowledge, and wisdom in the pupils.
~Terri Guillemets*



Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNN'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 104

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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EDITORIAL

Haiti's painful recovery

President Rene Preval of Haiti has moved back into an undamaged part of the Presidential Palace to receive official visitors for the first time since the cataclysmic earthquake of Jan. 12. It is just one of several small but encouraging signs that Haiti has started the long and painful process of recovery.

Given the onset of the rainy season, the vast population scattered in hundreds of refugee camps, living in rudimentary shelters and still vulnerable to mudslides and the threat of flooding, no one is ready to declare the end of the emergency. But it is important to note that the mountains of aid and intense levels of attention Haiti has received from the world community in the last 15 weeks have made a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of Haitians.

Most important, perhaps, is that epidemics of contagious disease that many feared would ravage the population have failed to materialize—so far. This is not just a matter of good fortune. Haiti's doctors, U.S. and U.N. medical authorities, nonprofits like Doctors Without Borders and the International Medical Corps have been working tirelessly to give medical attention to the needy and create disease-free conditions in the sprawling camps.

In some cases, they have been too successful. U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, who visited Haiti this weekend, noted that some Haitians had left their undamaged homes to live in camps where they could be assured of sanitary living conditions and a guaranteed food supply. He said some of the camps have grown to three and four times their original size.

Nonetheless, too many camps are just a major storm away from sliding down a hillside or turning into disaster zones. Closing these camps and moving the vulnerable population to safer sites should remain the top priority for the authorities in Haiti.

Perhaps the most urgent need after that is to streamline and formalize the process of distributing funds and resources for organizations that want to help Haiti. At the moment, well-intentioned efforts to assist Haiti—groups that want to contribute money to establish hospitals, for example—do not know where to turn to move forward.

The first step is to fill the position of executive director of the Haitian Reconstruction Commission to begin giving shape and direction to the recovery effort. Preval will be instrumental in the selection. He must find an individual whose reputation is beyond reproach—preferably a Haitian living in Haiti—as a way of reassuring the international community that the recovery effort will not be plagued by corruption and malfeasance.

Haiti has come a long way since Jan. 12, but the journey to recovery is just beginning.

The \$5.3 billion pledged by international donors for 2010-11 at a March 31 U.N. conference is no more than the promise of a better future for the people of Haiti. This level of aid will likely be slow in coming, if at all, until Mr. Preval's government shows credible signs that it is up to the job of leading the recovery.

McClatchy-Tribune News Service



A different view on a difficult problem—increasing revenue

For the past several months the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Administration have been feuding over what is the best way to increase revenue so that the government can pass a \$150 million budget. It looks like they can only muster up a \$137 million budget. Many comments have sprung forth on how to best achieve a balanced budget. Since everybody is putting in their two cents, I want to add mine also.

One of the first things a smart businessman learns early is that there are only two ways to make money: one is to cut expenses and keep selling the same amount of his merchandise; or, two is to cut expenses and sell more. If he just cuts and loses revenue at the same time, he will eventually fail. He must cut costs and find ways to increase revenue. It appears to me that one side of the government is trying to cut costs, while the other is trying to generate more revenue. Let's discuss possible ways that we can do both.

One of the most effective ways to cut costs is to dismiss employees who are not really productive, but were hired doing the good times in repayment for favors done for the party. Before any dismissal of employees, it is wise to do a desk audit to see where the reduction of personnel can be best implemented. I wonder when was the last time, if ever, that the government did a desk audit?

It is interesting how much more work and how much more efficiently work will get done with fewer employees. Employees get the message quickly. Produce or exit.

As an example, at Saipan Ice and Water Company and at Saipan Sea Ventures, we reduced our workforce by over 25 percent over several months. And to our surprise, we found morale remained high and production remained at our predicated level. It was sad that we had to let some employees go, but we had to cut costs.

There are hundreds of employees that could be eliminated from the government payroll without being missed. This would result in hundreds of thousands of dollars being saved monthly. This probably would also improve the work ethic. But what do we do with the laid-off employees?

Since many of them have no basic skills but were hired as political fodder, they should be encouraged to learn a trade or profession to replace the nonresident workers who are slowly going home. We need our own people to replace them. There are many opportunities in the private sector opening up daily. I have discussed this elsewhere and will continue to do so.

However the popular thinking in the House of Representatives is to cut employees working hours by X hours bi-weekly or have a four day week. Or all employees are expected to take a 12.5 percent cut in salary in lieu of a shorter workweek. These moves are expected to create huge savings. However it also reveals that there are too many unnecessary employees walking around Capitol Hill.

Meanwhile the Senate would like to raise revenue by increas-

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



ing rates on many items and services. This approach also has merit. However what bothers me most is has anyone really done the math to actually estimate a reliable amount of money to be collected from both plans? Has anyone estimated any negative effects on cutting employees and/or raising prices to raise more revenue. Remember all actions have a reaction. Have we really done our homework?

Let's look at several things that can be done to increase revenue. **The first thing is to make sure that the full amount of the General Receipts Tax is 100 percent collected.** A gross receipts tax is similar to a sales tax, but it is levied on the seller of goods or service rather than the consumer. This is compared to other taxes that are listed as a separate line item on billing, and are not a factor in markup or profit on company sales. The CNMI's GRT is currently 5 percent and is payable each quarter of the year.

A major concern is that we are not monitoring the proper collection of this 5 percent GRT each quarter. Several times over the years, I have questioned this and have been told that: "We don't have enough people to check this out." Wow! How much money yearly is slipping away from the tax and revenue office by this shoddy thinking? Come on, let's collect what rightfully belongs to the government. It is not difficult to track this lost tax money. I bet it runs into a huge sum of money. What a copout!

Where is the will to collect this legal payable tax? Yet the government cries: No money! Hopefully some of the legislators will raise this question of whether or not 100 percent of the GRT is being collected and how does the tax and revenue office monitor the collection.

Another way to increase our revenue which is very equitable is to consider imposing a "sales tax" as 45 of the 50 states do in the United States. A "sales tax" is a tax added onto the price of goods or services that are purchased by the consumer. A sales tax is a tax on consumption. The more we buy the more sales tax we pay.

This sales tax is the responsibility of the merchant to collect and remit to the state. It is separately or implicitly added at the time of the sale to the consumer. In other words, say the sales tax is 2

See A DIFFERENT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

AFTER OPTING OUT OF SS ‘SAFETY NET’ FOR NMI’S RETIREMENT PLAN**CNMI govt now wants to ‘dump its own’**

Sometime soon members of a negotiating group consisting of representatives from the central government and the Retirement Fund will meet to submit a plan to the Superior Court to resolve the issue of payment of the government’s indebtedness to Fund members now amounting to some \$280 million.

This they must do to comply with a court order.

Already the defined benefit plan has been frozen with no new members admitted and there have been indications that the administration team’s plan is to recommend the eventual abandonment of an NMI supported retirement program all together.

The April 30 issue of the *Saipan Tribune* carried a story entitled: “Pension obligation bond, eventual phase out in Fund’s five-point plan” and skipping over much of the articles content to focus only on the one issue, namely, the eventual phase out of the retirement fund—the article states:

“If there’s any company or bank willing to buy the plan, that would be contingent upon the solvency of the plan. Who would buy it now, when the accrued liability is so high? Maybe if allowed to borrow up to \$200 million to pay for its obligations then the Fund will become self-sufficient and well funded that buyers would be interested.”

To attempt to achieve this “well funded” condition there is talk of a legislative initiative being placed on the November ballot to issue a bond to cover, at least a portion of the government’s indebtedness to retirees of about \$200 million of the \$280 million owed. What happens to the remaining \$80 million is anyone’s guess.

This debt, which is the equivalent of an account receivable, is now jointly owned by every member of the Fund;s defined benefit plan (DBP) and as such should not be pledged to guarantee any bond issue.

It seems that the administrations team of negotiators want to restructure the Fund according to a review of certain data presented as “NMI Retirement Fund—Overview Investment Status”, April 2010, which I presume was prepared in support of a recommended plan for a major restructuring of the NMI Retirement Plan. Several issues are addressed which are worth examination by retirees one of which addressed the “Phase Out of the Retirement Plan” suggesting that a request for proposal (RFP) be issued for a reputable insurance company or bank to guarantee annuities to all current retirees and active DB members” and—get this—transfer all assets of the Fund (credit union, judicial loan, all real estate and other assets) to—guess who? That’s right—the government!

In my opinion this would be tantamount to a “raids” on member’s property consisting of accounts receivable, mortgages, securities, notes, etc.

Interestingly, the Superior Court suggested the possibility of just the opposite, namely, that government assets might be assigned to the Fund as payment of the government debt.

As things now stand with the Retirement Fund continuing to deteriorate under a two pronged assault resulting from the country’s current economic “meltdown” brought about by rapacious stock manipulators; incompetent federal regulators and extortionate financiers all resulting in massive market losses and the Fund’s diminishment of its investment portfolio. Add to that the central government’s continued failure to honor its legal contractual obligation to the Fund’s members.

Result—the defined benefit retirement program will be broke in a few years and many members will not even have Social Security benefits to fall back on to provide income support. This is the government’s fault, pure and simple.

At the beginning of 2010 the average monthly Social Security

benefit was \$1,164.

Section 606 of the Covenant addressed the application of the U.S. Social Security system to the NMI but the local government elected to opt out in favor of its own retirement plan. For those who haven’t paid into Social Security—they will not be eligible for monthly payments. One must have participated with payment deductions for 40 quarters to be eligible for reduced pension payments at age 62 or full pension at later ages. Because of the time period involved I suspect this was another reason the Legislature decided to create the NMI’s own system.

Such an important decision as made by the Legislature would have far reaching and long-term consequences on the financial security of many government employees. In my opinion, the decision should have been put to the employees to decide and not their elected representatives who (it must be said) were subject to the temptation of a possible conflict of interest since they could establish their own rules for the NMI’s retirement program—but not the U.S. Social Security System. Dare I suggest that at the time they saw an opportunity to maneuver the NMI’s program to benefit the retirement pensions of certain elected officials.

The ‘Phase Out of the Retirement Plan’ suggests that a request for proposal (RFP) be issued for a reputable insurance company or bank to guarantee annuities to all current retirees and active DB members” and—get this—transfer all assets of the Fund (credit union, judicial loan, all real estate and other assets) to—guess who? That’s right—the Government!

If you are in a position to set up the rules and regulations to control the distribution of money not only for others but also for yourself—well, go figure! As a “regular” government civil service retiree, past or present, what do you think?

It is my understanding that Section 606 (b) of the Covenant presumably anticipated the eventual application of the federal Social Security laws in full to the NMI, including the excise and self-employment taxes which would support the system once the Trusteeship Agreement was terminated. So the possibility for participation in the U.S. Social Security System was there at the beginning—but, of course, is no longer an option.

This is not to state that the Social Security System does not apply in the NMI. It certainly does for many in the private sector. Many thousands in the private sector are now paying into Social Security—but government civil service employees do not.

Considering the NMI’s Retirement Fund is now on a slippery slope toward becoming broke in a few years I can’t help but believe that many will view the recent failure of the central government to adhere to its financial and moral obligations to its retired employees

items such as prescription medicines. Other items may also be exempted. So you see it can be adopted in various ways so as not to hurt people who have special needs. But the main point here is that the shortage for the budget is spread more evenly around citizens and tourists. As a result not only the government employees will be hit in their pockets. We all share in the government’s Mad Hater insane spending habits.

I hope some legislators will look into my discussion above. A sales tax may be a way to make up the deficit we are facing. However, whatever taxes we have now and any new ones we may impose, one thing must be certain. **We must diligently collect all the taxes due to the government.** There can be no leakage or excuses for not trying to collect it.

There is no company or government in the world that can survive when it pays about 75 percent of its revenue in salaries. This leaves only a few dollars for other services. When a government spends so much for employees’ salaries, it is obvious that it has become a welfare state. If this continues the government will never have enough money.

In some states senior citizens have an exemption from certain

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.



and families, widows and widowers as—(1) failure to live up to the terms of the Covenant with the United States with reckless abandonment with regard to maintaining a financially sound, long-term retirement program; (2) inexcusable neglect; (3) abridgement

of contractual entitlements by arbitrary administrative and legislative fiat; (4) gross fiduciary irresponsibility and (5) callous disregard for the future health and welfare of the elderly.

Nor, in my judgment is it realistic to consider issuing bonds to raise money which I discussed in my op-ed article last week. So don’t be fooled by false hopes. Perhaps there is some wishful thinking within the central government that the United States government will step in and bail the Commonwealth government out of the financial hole it has dug. I wouldn’t count on it. Why should the U.S. clean up a mess it had no part in creating? Besides, the U.S. government is broke and has a financial mess of its own making to clean up.

I would imagine that the Commonwealth’s financial requirements for “bail-out” money for an abused retirement system would receive little sympathy in Congressional appropriation committees. Indeed, a request for funds for such a purpose, if it were to be eventually made, might shine a spot-light on other issues that some in the islands might wish could be avoided.

Thus, when not receiving favorable results from their appeal to Congress for direct financial assistance from the U.S. Treasury—the U.S. government and the Department of Interior along with the appropriation committees of Congress should not be surprised when the day arrives when Commonwealth politicos go to Washington with “hat in hand” requesting an increase in food stamp allowances; expanded subsidized rental housing and increased funding to provide for free medical services at CHC—to mention only a few charitable programs.

If my memory serves me correctly I believe it was legislation passed by the 5th Legislature “opting out” of the U.S. Social Security system for government direct hire civil service employees in favor of a locally operated NMI Retirement Fund. As usual government employees were not given a voice in the matter of selecting their retirement program. I think I’m correct in the NMI’s relinquishing of the possibility of S.S. coverage was retroactive to January, 1986 or 1987 and those Social Security taxes which had been withheld were refunded to government employees.

So, where does it leave the retirees? Those of retirement age who have worked for the NMI government should not have to contend with the aggravation of an indifferent central government that won’t pay is debt now approaching \$280 million. It just isn’t right and people deserve better from past and present administrations.

Editors note: In the absence of publicly released, in-depth analyses on many issues related to the NMI’s retirement fund—the author advances his personal opinions for consideration by interested retirees from the perspective of “one of their own” who is also as an economist, a retiree and 35-year resident of the NMI and was, as they say, “present at the beginning.”

Another way to save money and to increase taxes is to create a local work force that earns its own money which will remain in the CNMI. Consider the increase in taxes if more local people earned money and it stayed here. Another thing we must work hard towards is to find products that we can produce here and sell as exports thereby importing money instead of what we are doing now which is exporting money.

When are we going to encourage more local development of industries? When are we going to reduce our imports and motivate people to farm more and we purchase their products? When are we going to begin owning and operating our own small businesses?

Yes, we can cut the labor force in the government. Yes, we can increase prices for government services. Is this the answer or is the problem deeper? Is this a new or a chronic problem? For how many more years do we do this until we truly become a bankrupt nation? Think about it?

Yes, these are difficult times, but with a strong will, determination and innovative thinking, we can and must seek different and better ways to balance our budgets. Have a great day!

A DIFFERENT

From Page 10

percent. So when we buy an item the clerk rings up, for example, a \$1.00 than adds in another \$.02 for a total purchase of \$1.02. Of course, the \$.02 is the sales tax.

Consider 350,000 tourists annually with an estimated \$300 spent by each on gifts, meals, tours, etc. Using the 2 percent sales tax on \$300 equals \$6.00 per tourist. Multiply 350,000 tourist times \$6.00 equals \$1,500,000.00 in sales taxes. To that add an estimated 60,000 residents in all three islands. If each spends an average of \$8,000.00 per year on food, clothing and all the other purchases, this will equal a sales tax on each \$8,000.00 spent about \$160.00 per person. Thus \$160.00 times 60,000 residents equals \$9,600,000.00 in sales taxes. Add this \$9,600,000.00 to the \$1,500,000.00 the total new taxes collected will be \$11,200,000.00! This is only my rough calculation. You do your own math.

In some states senior citizens have an exemption from certain

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87° ▾ 77°

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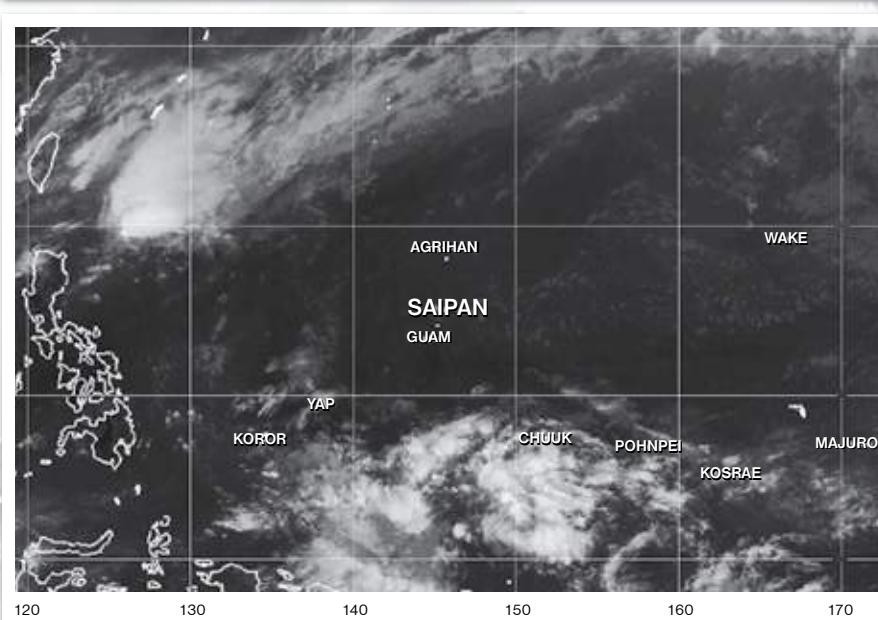
▲ 87° ▾ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86	▼ 78
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 86	▼ 77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲ 87	▼ 76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 82	▼ 77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 84	▼ 78
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲ 87	▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86	▼ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64	▼ 57
Beijing	Showers	▲ 72	▼ 53
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 78	▼ 66
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82	▼ 72
London	Cloudy	▲ 52	▼ 39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 77	▼ 59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 90	▼ 79
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 67	▼ 58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85	▼ 74
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73	▼ 56
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75	▼ 58
Paris	Showers	▲ 53	▼ 41
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 66	▼ 59
Rome	Showers	▲ 70	▼ 57
Salem	Showers	▲ 69	▼ 44
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 69	▼ 57
Seoul	Showers	▲ 69	▼ 55
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70	▼ 60
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 77	▼ 60



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front extends northeastward from 19N130E to beyond 25N148E with cloudiness and patchy rain along and up to 400 miles northwest of the front. A shear line extends southeastward from near Wake Island at 18N168E to Beyond 15N180. Marine cumulus clouds and widely scattered showers are found along the shear line and northward to beyond 25N. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers southeast of Palau within 100 miles of a line from 2N133E to 4N140E. Convergence associated with a weak disturbance centered near 4N146E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south and southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 8N from 142E to 155E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers in an area from just south of Pohnpei across Kosrae to the southern Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 5N156E to 5N175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:13 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.3 Feet
9:37 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
5:18 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	10:59 PM	9:37 AM
Tuesday	11:43 PM	10:30 AM
Wednesday		11:21 AM
Thursday	12:24 AM	12:11 PM
Friday	1:02 AM	12:58 PM

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PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SAR! Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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■ For pictures: Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

■ Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

■ For announcements: Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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■ For Travelogue,

Na Tunas I Areglon Publiku!

Dispues de ta punu un' kolebla doble besis gi alacha, mattu talu tattie lau pagu na biahe dos iluña ni manananaan casino. Hu rikonose hafa este na ginagau ni esta ma-introduce gi sanpapa na guma lehislatura. Hu soda' na guaha medikun kolebla ni muna' safu este na kolebla dispues de ta punu'.

Komprendiyon i chinatsagan i tiempu gi enteru elmundu kontodu Marianas. Tat fuetsudu siha na nasion ti man-tinemba nu i pestin maribahan fondu gi kahan publiku. Mas fotte este na pesti guine piot sa' taya nuebu na hinalom bisnis ni man-dafikulu. Gi mismu tiempu sige i man-dikiki siha na bisnis mahuchum pettan niha.

I kuestion gi lamasan publiku: Hafa propiu na asuntu probichosu para ta bira fuetsau i maribahan fondu. Na ti magahet na 'nai machuchuda' buchita gi ochenta siha na sakan, ni unu humasso muna' sahñge para 'an guaha didog na chinatsaga. Gai finette este na asuntu sa umafagcha bahun i tiempu yan matalon ma-introduce para disposition lau esta guaha disposition pot dos besis.

Yangin magahet na mauleg este na industria, pues siempre opnan ginen Tinian yan Luta na machuchuda kahan niha. Lau ti este masusesede gi dos islas. Dafikulu este na espehos yan leksion para Saipan. Gi hilu este na ihemplu, propiu para ta repite i lache?

Mauleg lokue in'tiñgu na mattu guine i paire na kabesanten casino as Señor Stanley Ho gi ochenta siha na sakan. Tumunug Luta, Tinian yan Saipan ya mau'udai gi un' guaguan na ruplanu. Yangin, enfin, paire este na industria para Marianas pues siempre ha birague mage si Señor Ho pot para u establese casino guine. Lau buente ha

lie' na mampos chagu i lugat yan dikiki numeron tautauta para u tohne este na industria yangin matompu' i industrian turista.

Gi mismu sakudida, ta sasañgan para ta mantene Attiku Dose pot kutturan natibu. Na ti magahet na este i casino na industria unu gi mas fotte gi destrosiun kutturan tanu? Siempre un' espihaye mas tautau para u fan halom guine deste hutnaleros yan atkilon tanu publicu yan praihet. Pues mauleg ha' i casino gi este na uson tanu? Dispues de attkilon, mañgge para uson famaguon miyu?

Esta i federat ha matene disposition immigration sa' mampos megai diskuiduta guine na patte. Kau man-malefa hit na gi papa' i nuebu na disposition federat siempre man-sudadanu i tautau hiyoñg guine? Ti magahet na este pagu na direchu i para tautau hiyoñg ni hagas ta patang siempre mas ha aminasa modun linala' tautauta? Kau i malinġun disposition immigration i priopi na kastigu para hita pot hagas ta upos yan letke responsablidatta gi proteksiun direchu gi todū atmos bandan?

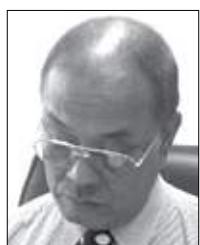
Ayu na tiempu pagu mamachom pettaña. Guiya ayu na tiempu 'nai ta sedi I muchacha fumanague famaguonta man-finu Tagalu yan otru siha liñguah. Pagu man-a'achaikag hit para tafanague famaguonta man-finu Chamorro. Pagu man-e'eyag hit talu responsablidat familia sa taigue esta i muchacha para ta matrata. Man-nanañgu hit pagu gi halom didog na diskuidu para ta reskata I hagas ta ñega na responsablidat siha.

Kulan taya' inadahe gi hafa ta petsisige siha na areglu. Piot 'nai guaha para umana fan buchi sekus niha, ensegidas ta yotten ñaihon inadahen modun linala'ta. Mampos hit man-asupag gi piligrosu siha

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DeRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



na asuntu 'nai debi mohon ta atetuye umestudia hafa signifikasiōna yangin et mismu asuntu ha destrosia linala' familia guine sa' hokug ta bendif ñaihon i uttimu na guinahata pot para ta lachai gi huegun casino. Memegaña destrosiu ke benefisiu!

Ti listuyu sumaunau gi madestrosian kutturan yan tradision tautauta guine siha na islas. Ya maseha makat i tafafana', mas makat para ta padese yangin tasede talu ayu na kolebla para u luñu i haanen tautauta siha. Muñga mana' chagu kareran miyu pot ihemplon huegun chansa. Atan oriyen miyu guine giya Saipan pot Poker yan hafa bidaña kontra i dididi' na pottanmonedan familia. Mampos oppan i destrosiu ya ti propiu na para ta repite hafa i destrosia na industria kontra hita. Si Yuus Maase'!

Ilegña si Duñg na listugue esta umakamu. Humanau kumonfisat ya 'nai finaisen as pale kuantu na Yuus guaha, tinete induktu, dispues ilegña: "Dies! Sinañgane pale na u ritirague estake ha soda kuantu na Yuus guaha. Gi hiniyoñgña, ha soda si Juan ya ha faien ni mismu kuestion. Ilegña si Juan: "Dalai hau Duñg, unu ha' na Yuus guaha". Matman si Duñg dispues ilegña: "Kettu, Iku, hombre i dies ti malagu si pale ha aksepta". A'Saina!



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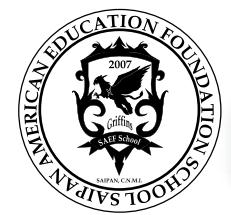
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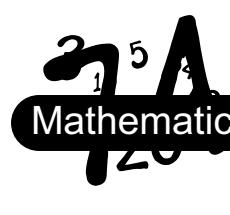
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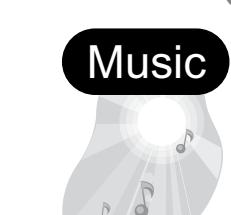
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OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Relevance of Article 12

The debate on Article 12 is a matter that is germane to the survival of the indigenous people of the CNMI. Their only language is Chamorro or Carolinian, or both. Any debate on the issue should make this the sole and only prerequisite in order for the ordinary people whose line of communication comes from speaking their only language. This is the only measure by which the indigenous people would have complete and unabated view about their land resources and to decide whether

the present, and prepare for the future. We must draw "meaning" of our life and community as a people who has sustained the good stewardship's of the lands in these islands starting from our ancestors who also had expected that we as the indigenous people keep these lands in the hands of future indigenous generations in the same way that they had passed these resources to us. The "meaning" I am referring here is not the words or words in the sentence

When Article 12 became part of the Constitution when it was drafted and approved by the voters, it was communication in Chamorro and Carolinian that paved the way for its adoption as the law on land ownership. Today, this is still the mandate and it should not change.

that one uses to rationalize ideals, but it is greater than that. In this way that we will not disturb and turn the spirits of our ancestors in their graves as we make decisions in the name of materialism which is the basis of the American dreams. Indeed, materialism breeds selfishness, selfishness churns up self-interest, ultimately we end up as selfless society charging and chasing the materialism of modern global world. We can debate these issues, but we all must see that materialism and spirituality are two different matters that do not agree. I am not sure where

Mr. Ambrose Benette's common sense view about that.

We know what it is like when one cell or group of cells in the body begins to advance at the expense of every other cell. We call this cancer. When this same principle becomes accepted or valorized in the CNMI community, we get a pathological form of self-interest by people like Mr. Ambrose Bennette. Ultimately, this turns out much worst because of selfishness. Now, that the immigration issue

is being pushed on by Washington, D.C. bureaucrats, the indigenous people of the CNMI must now rise up to the occasion and ruffle some feathers because this is going to be the beginning of the end of our slow but fateful death spiral to exist as a people on this planet. Where are the elected leaders, what is holding up the bandwagon or are we just waiting

for the federalists to continue punching us in the stomach on this matter? There is something more sinister to this and we can no longer depend on our passive demeanor that this would just correct itself. The sad thing about it is that it seems that we lost all hopes and hopefulness. I say no to this, we must re-group and make a more radical and active stand so that we can assure our future indigenous generation that these islands were gifts from their ancestors and God.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa

was his own personal car).

So my husband and I said we would not rent the car and the guy charged us \$20 just for taking us to the bank. It would have been understandable if it was so far but it was about a 10-minute drive from where he picked us up and to the bank and then to the rent a car. Instead of my husband losing his patience he paid the driver and we left and rented a car at another rent a car company. Lucky for him that we were in such a hurry, but it was such a rip off.

Angela Reyes
San Jose, Tinian

believe that it is fair for you to own land anywhere in the United States, why am I being unreasonable to see it would be fair for me to own land in the CNMI?

Paul Beebe
Spokane, Washington

Worst rent-a-car ever

My husband and I have tried renting a car from a number of rent-a-car companies on Saipan. What car we rent or from whom depends on our family size. We usually rent at a certain company, but they did not have a car available, so we tried a new rent a car company.

When we called and asked how much was it to rent a car for one day the guy said \$40, so we decided that we would rent from there. Before we could go to the rent-a-car office we had asked the driver if we could stop by the bank first so that we could change our check.

He said okay no problem.

Saipan is part of America

Mr. Keiper,

It's amusing that you say my response to you "wandered" all over the place. Like a drunken sailor. I fail to see that. The one thing you failed to notice is nowhere in my letter did I say

LOCAL

'Legal malpractice vs Atty. Long legally unsustainable'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

conveyed property from and or to any named or unnamed defendants.

Bellas stated in the complaint that in 2004 Choi retained Long for \$7,000 as his counsel in obtaining a divorce from Kim and dividing their marital estate.

Choi and Kim have two children.

Bellas said while Long was representing Choi in the domestic matter, Choi needed further legal representation in a matter involving the Federal Bureau of Investigation's raid on plaintiff's business premises.

Choi hired and paid \$30,000 to Long in this potential criminal matter involving FBI's raid on suspected illegal gambling activity.

Bellas said that, on June 20, 2005, the court granted the divorce of the parties, but deferring the division of the marital estate at a later date.

Bellas said Choi and Kim reconciled and Long, pursuant to Choi's request, drafted a stipulation and order of dismissal requesting the court to vacate the divorce decree.

On Dec. 15, 2005, the court vacated the divorce decree and stated that Choi and Kim "remain lawful husband and wife."

Bellas said plaintiff departed the CNMI for Korea on Aug. 23, 2007 to purchase construction materials and the following day, FBI agents raided the couple's business enterprise.

Bellas said Choi paid Long \$30,000 in Nov. 2007 to represent him in the FBI matter.

Long allegedly suggested that if charges were filed, it could result in the U.S. government's forfeiting Choi's property based on the alleged illegal gambling activity.

"In reliance on this advice, Choi conveyed much of his marital property to the person he then believed to be his spouse, Kim," Bellas said.

According to the complaint, shortly thereafter, Kim prepared a general power of attorney which allowed her to exercise control over all the marital property in Choi's absence from the CNMI.

Later, Kim began not returning Choi's phone calls or responding to his emails.

"During this same period while Choi was off-island, Long commenced an adulterous relationship with Kim," Bellas said.

Bellas said the plaintiff has been unable to readily accept the loss of his relationship with his daughter and Kim.

Military to conduct training on FDM, Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, GUAM—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on May 3 from 8am to 8pm. The U.S. Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area-517 on May 4 and 5 from 8am to 4pm.

The general public—espe-

cially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical

Bellas said during Choi's absence and after her affair with Long had commenced, Kim started to transfer many of the marital assets to third persons.

Bellas said Choi finally was able to contact with Kim in the mid March of 2008, during which she told him that "the game was over."

Bellas said Kim, who had never been to the U.S. mainland, went with Long to a trip in several U.S. cities in March of 2008.

Choi followed to the U.S. to intercept her, but was unsuccessful because Kim apparently revised her itinerary three times.

Bellas said when Choi returned to Saipan on April 22, 2008, Kim told her that he could no longer reside in their joint residence.

"Without disclosing his new relationship with Kim, Long gave advice to Choi, via an interpreter, for Choi not to return to his former residence as it would be bad for his pending criminal matter," Bellas said.

Thereafter, Bellas said, Choi began to discover the details and true nature of the relationship between Long and Kim.

Bellas said Choi discovered that Kim had numerous phone calls from Long in the early morning hours which lasted for long periods of time.

"Despite Kim having several vehicles at her disposal, she rented a vehicle which was observed parked at Long's law office during late evening hours," Bellas said.

Choi's professional relationship with Long was terminated and he retained attorney Michael Dotts as his counsel in the divorce and criminal matter.

Bellas said Kim retained attorney Robert Torres as her counsel and she eventually obtained a temporary restraining order from the court against Choi.

"Based on her new relationship with Long and the destruction of her relationship with Choi, Kim entered into a series of transactions in which she fraudulently conveyed several real and personal property marital assets to third parties some of whom are her relatives," Bellas said.

Bellas said the plaintiff has been unable to readily accept the loss of his relationship with his daughter and Kim.

Off-island trip for regents, NMC president set

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A three-day off-island trip for all seven members of the Board of Regents and Northern Marianas College interim president Lorraine Cabrera is set on June 13 through 15.

Cabrera and the regents are expected to participate in training that would give them an opportunity to collaborate with regents from other U.S. insular areas.

Although funding was an issue for the off-island travel, Cabrera reported to the board that a portion of the state fiscal stabilization fund will be tapped to accommodate the professional development of the regents.

As of Friday, no estimated cost and venue has yet been disclosed for the planned trip, but the interim president assured that funding concern has been resolved for the purpose.

In her recent trip from an accreditation training in Guam, Cabrera pointed out that the "professional development" of board members were described as "very necessary and vital" in the accreditation process of any college and university.

The sessions, specifically targeted to new appointed regents, are expected to provide overview and comprehensive presentation about the board's functions and importance of meeting the accreditation.

It was earlier disclosed that the board was supposed to conduct its two-day self-assessment and retreat in April but was postponed due to conflict of schedules.

Cabrera said the board, after the off-island event, could also include the planned retreat and evaluation for members.

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, NMC's accreditation liaison officer, said in continuing its efforts to meet accreditation standards and requirements, the board will be undergoing self-assessment to determine how each of the individual members can better serve the college and the community.

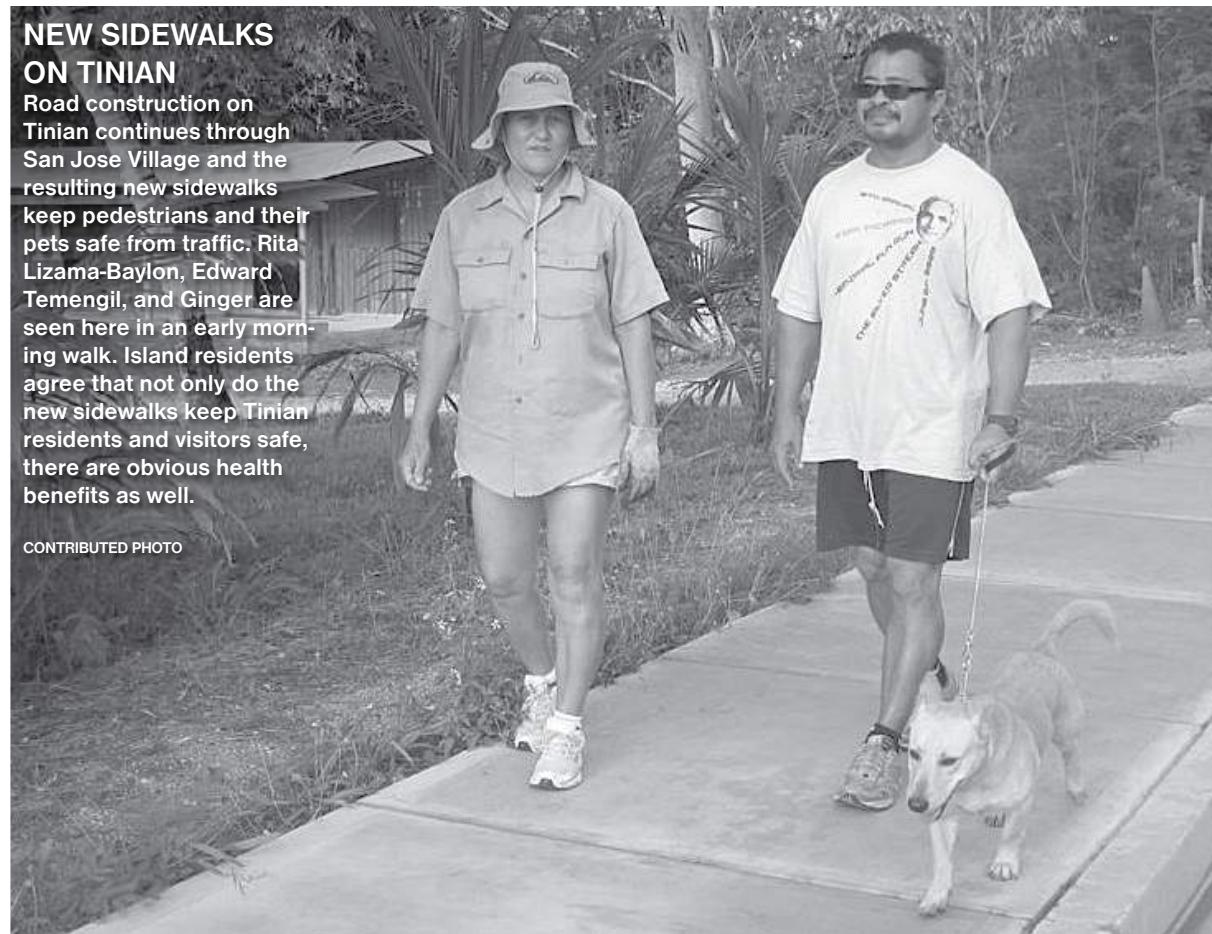
He disclosed that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Standard IV.B. states that the board should regularly evaluate its policies and practices.

Deleon Guerrero also said that

NEW SIDEWALKS ON TINIAN

Road construction on Tinian continues through San Jose Village and the resulting new sidewalks keep pedestrians and their pets safe from traffic. Rita Lizama-Baylon, Edward Temengil, and Ginger are seen here in an early morning walk. Island residents agree that not only do the new sidewalks keep Tinian residents and visitors safe, there are obvious health benefits as well.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



evaluations will allow the board to continually grow and improve and that the process of self-assessment is integral to the college's on-going program review process and data-driven, evidence-based decision-making.

Key points of evaluation process

It was in June 2009 when the college reaffirmed its accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

"In order to ensure that all the members of the Board of Regents are supporting the mission of the college in the most efficient, effective, and consistent manner, I will continue to prioritize board development activities that include continuous self-evaluation and board training," said NMC Board of Regents chair Janet Han King.

She said the self-assessment is also required by the NMC Board of Regents policies on board operations, which states that "the self evaluation will help in identifying specific issues, such as the board's rules and responsibilities, which can help build better communication and understanding

among board members.

The policies also state that the self assessment will also help in appreciating each others' values and strengths that will lead to a stronger, more cohesive working team.

Saipan Tribune learned that as part of the self evaluation process, each of the seven board members will be asked to perform a self-assessment on five categories: relationship with the president, relationship to the instructional program, staff and personnel relations, relationship to the financial management of the school, and lastly, community relationships.

Each of the five categories will focus on how each member has been involved in the planning and establishment of policies that assists to enhance the performance and personal qualities of the president, the general quality and advancement of teaching techniques and course contents, efficient management of the college's finances and budgeting, sound personnel policies, and responses to public inquiries and increased involvement in community affairs.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to Florencia Gutierrez—affectionately known as Flo—who is celebrating her 47th birthday today, May 3. We wish you all the best on your special day! Warm greetings come from the Concepcion and Attao families of Chalan Piao. We thank you for everything. May you have many more birthdays to come!

GUAM NEWS

Bordallo meets with Palau President Toribiong

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo met yesterday with President Johnson Toribiong of the Republic of Palau. Toribiong is in Washington, D.C. to attend a memorial service honoring U.S. airmen from World War II whose remains were recently recovered in Palau and returned to their families. He will also continue negotiations on the Compact of Free Association with the United States. Yesterday's meeting took place in Bordallo's office in the Cannon House Office Building. Toribiong was accompanied by Ambassador Hersey Kyota.

"I commended [Toribiong] for his leadership and vision during the ongoing negotiations on the Compact of Free Association between the United States and Palau," Bordallo said. "He indicated that there has been good progress and that they may be ready

for congressional consideration by early summer. As chairwoman of the Subcommittee with jurisdiction over the Freely Associated States, I look forward to working with President Toribiong as Congress considers legislation to implement the renewal of the Compact. Palau has made great strides under the Compact and we anticipate that the renewal will give Palau new opportunities to enhance economic development and ensure the stability and security of its citizens. The friendship between Palau and the United States is a special relationship that has benefited both nations." (PR)

...with chief of WH Initiative on Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders...

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo met yesterday with Kiran Ahuja, executive director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islander

ers. Ahuja visited the Capitol to attend a meeting with members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Ahuja was appointed by President Barack Obama on Dec. 14, 2009, to serve as executive director of the White House Initiative on AAPIs and is also the founding executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum.

"Ms. Ahuja is a leader in Asian American, Pacific Islander advocacy and is now the point person in the Administration for issues important to our community," Bordallo said. "During her visit to our CAPAC members meeting, Ms. Ahuja announced plans from the Obama Administration's campaign to increase Asian American and Pacific Islanders' participation in federal programs. Her announcement was made in advance of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage month and I commend the Obama Administra-

tion in our community, including AAPIs living in the territories. I thank Ms. Ahuja for taking the time to meet with CAPAC today and I look forward to working with her further on initiatives that are important to the AAPI community." (PR)

...and with Labor Secretary Hilda Solis

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo met with Secretary Hilda Solis of the U.S. Department of Labor yesterday to discuss the Department of Labor's efforts in meeting the provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act. The Honorable Brian Kennedy, Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Honorable Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Administration at the U.S. Department of Labor, were present in the meeting as well.

"During today's meeting with

Bordallo commands passage of Puerto Rico Democracy Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo last week announced the passage of H.R. 2499, the "Puerto Rico Democracy Act" by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The bill passed by a vote of 223 yeas, 169 nays, and 1 present vote. H.R. 2499, introduced last year by Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi of Puerto Rico, requires Puerto Rico to conduct a plebiscite, asking whether the people of Puerto

Rico are satisfied with the current political status of the island.

If more than 50 percent of the electorate votes "no," the referendum will proceed to a second round where voters will be asked to vote for one of three legally acceptable alternative political statuses: independence, independence in association with the United States, or statehood.

The results of these votes will not be binding for either the government of Puerto Rico or the federal government. Should H.R. 2499 be enacted into law it will mark the first time that the people of Puerto Rico will participate in a federally sanctioned process to express their preferences regarding their political status.

"Today, the people of Puerto Rico move forward in their quest for a self-determined political status," Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo said. "H.R. 2499 is not just important for the people of Puerto Rico, it is important for all Americans living in the Territories. Each territory, including Guam, must choose its own path to self determination. That is why I introduced legislation providing federal funds for political status education for Guam so that we can begin our own process. As the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee with jurisdiction over territorial issues, I supported this bill because the Resident Commissioner, the Governor, and a substantial majority of the Puerto Rican legislature are united in their support of H.R. 2499. I hope that the U.S. Senate now takes up H.R. 2499, and my bill H.R. 3940, in order for both chambers of Congress to fulfill their constitutional responsibilities to the territories."

Secretary Solis, we discussed the Department of Labor's progress in meeting the labor requirements for the military build-up as established by provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009," Bordallo said. "Provisions such as fair wages for workers and the Department of Labor's certification that a contractor has done their due diligence in hiring American workers will continue to be finalized by the Department as preparations for the military build-up are underway. I encouraged the U.S. Department of Labor to continue working with Governor Camacho in regards to labor certification to ensure that American workers have preference for these jobs. I will also continue to work with my colleagues and with Secretary Solis to ensure that Americans are given every opportunity for employment at fair wages with the military buildup." (PR)

Business

Greece to announce more spending cuts to get aid

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece is announcing a new round of sweeping spending cuts through 2012, just hours before an emergency meeting of euro-zone finance ministers Sunday that is expected to approve the EU's contribution to an international loan package worth about euro120 billion (\$159 billion) over the next three years.

The socialist government's negotiations with representatives from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund, which had begun on April 21, went down to the wire and were not finalized until shortly after 9 p.m. (1800 GMT, 2 p.m. EDT) Saturday.

Prime Minister George Papandreou's Cabinet will meet 9:30 a.m. (0630 GMT, 2:30 a.m. EDT) Sunday to approve the measures. Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou will announce the measures immediately afterward and then depart for Brussels where the 16 euro-zone finance ministers will meet at 4 p.m. (1400 GMT, 10:00 a.m. EDT).

The measures are expected to include further hikes in consumer taxes, and deeper cuts in pensions and public service pay.

Toyota now faces 327 state, federal lawsuits

DETROIT (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp. now faces more than 320 lawsuits in federal and state court related to its sudden acceleration problems.

In a report filed Friday with U.S. District Judge James Selna, attorneys for the plaintiffs and Toyota listed 228 federal cases and 99 related cases in state courts. A judicial panel consolidated the federal cases before Selna last month.

Selna's court is in Orange County, California, near Los Angeles and close to Toyota's U.S. headquarters. The next court date in the case is sched-



A riot policeman jumps over metal railings after being set on fire by protesters throwing petrol bombs in Athens on Saturday May 1, 2010.

The EU and especially the IMF also demand a significant overhaul of the civil service.

The government will submit special emergency legislation to Parliament that was agreed upon with the EU and the IMF at Saturday's negotiating session. The Parliament is expected to approve the measures by Friday.

Furious unions oppose the measures which they have called disastrous and a serious rollback of employee rights. Tens of thousands of demonstrators, including an estimated 17,000 in Athens, protested dur-

ing annual May Day demonstrations Saturday against what they portrayed as Greece's capitulation to the IMF.

The protests were largely peaceful but were marred toward the end when hundreds of youths rioted, throwing Molotov cocktails and stones at police who responded with tear gas. A state TV van was burned and several storefronts, mostly banks, were damaged. Police made at least nine arrests, including six people suspected of looting a shop. Seven officers were injured along with two demonstrators.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Buffett supports Goldman at Berkshire meeting

OMAHA, Nebraska (AP)—Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett declared his support for Goldman Sachs Group Inc. CEO Lloyd Blankfein Saturday, and said he has no plans to sell his company's stake in the bank. Buffett and Berkshire vice chairman Charlie Munger praised Goldman before a crowd of about 40,000 at Berkshire's annual shareholder meeting. Both executives said they're happy with Blankfein's leadership and said they don't view the Securities and Exchange Commission's civil fraud charges against Goldman as a strike against him. "There's really no reason to think about somebody else running Goldman," Buffett said when asked

whether someone besides Blankfein should be leading the investment bank. The charges filed April 16 have raised questions about Blankfein's tenure.

Bolivia nationalizes at least 3 power companies

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—Bolivian President Evo Morales says he is nationalizing at least three power companies that have British capital. The leftist president signed the decree Saturday at the headquarters of one of the companies in the Cochabamba area. Police are also occupying the offices of other privately held electricity companies. Morales nationalized the hydrocarbons industry in 2006 and a telephone company in 2008. Both announcements came on May Day.

Bankruptcy filed by Ohio newspaper publishers

CINCINNATI (AP)—Newspaper publishers Brown Media Holdings Co. and Brown Publishing Co. have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy relief and plan to sell their assets in 10 states to a bidder the companies have chosen. The Cincinnati-based, family-owned businesses filed Friday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York, asking for approval of \$2.5 million in financing to help the companies through bankruptcy. The companies said in a news release that the unnamed bidder will assume a substantial portion of their liabilities. They said they have strong cash balances, positive operating cash flows and financing in place to finance the bankruptcy process.

Nation

Anger over Ariz. immigration law drives US rallies

CHICAGO (AP)—Angered by a controversial Arizona immigration law, tens of thousands of protesters—including 50,000 alone in Los Angeles—rallied in cities nationwide demanding President Barack Obama tackle immigration reform immediately.

"I want to thank the governor of Arizona because she's awakened a sleeping giant," said labor organizer John Delgado, who attended a rally in New York where authorities estimated 6,500 gathered.

From Los Angeles to Washington D.C., activists, fami-

lies, students and even politicians marched, practiced civil disobedience and "came out" about their citizenship status in the name of rights for immigrants, including the estimated 12 million living illegally in the U.S.

A congressman was among 35 people arrested during a protest at the White House. U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., was taking part in a civil disobedience demonstration.

Protests elsewhere were largely peaceful. No arrests were reported at most demonstrations; two were arrest-

ed near the march route in Los Angeles, but police said neither suspect appeared to be connected to the rally.

Police said 50,000 rallied in Los Angeles where singer Gloria Estefan kicked off a massive downtown march. Estefan spoke in Spanish and English, proclaiming the United States is a nation of immigrants.

"We're good people," the Cuban-born singer said atop a flatbed truck. "We've given a lot to this country. This country has given a lot to us."

Gulf oil spill swiftly balloons, could move east

VENICE, La. (AP)—A sense of doom settled over the American coastline from Louisiana to Florida on Saturday as a massive oil slick spewing from a ruptured well kept growing, and experts warned that an uncontrolled gusher could create a nightmare scenario if the Gulf Stream carries it toward the Atlantic.

President Barack Obama planned to visit the region Sunday to assess the situation amid growing criticism that the government and oil com-

pany BP PLC should have done more to stave off the disaster. Meanwhile, efforts to stem the flow and remove oil from the surface by skimming it, burning it or spiking it with chemicals to disperse it continued with little success.

"These people, we've been beaten down, disaster after disaster," said Matt O'Brien of Venice, whose fledgling wholesale shrimp dock business is under threat from the spill.

"They've all got a long stare in their eye," he said. "They

come asking me what I think's going to happen. I ain't got no answers for them. I ain't got no answers for my investors. I ain't got no answers."

He wasn't alone. As the spill surged toward disastrous proportions, critical questions lingered: Who created the conditions that caused the gusher? Did BP and the government react robustly enough in its early days? And, most important, how can it be stopped before the damage gets worse?

Officials: At least 5 dead in Tenn. flooding

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—At least five people died and hundreds were being evacuated Saturday as heavy rains pounded Tennessee, causing widespread flooding across the state.

The forecast called for more rain through the weekend.

The five deaths were storm related, but the exact causes were not yet known, Jeremy Heidt, spokesman for the Ten-

nessee Emergency Management Agency, said Saturday evening.

Hundreds of homes had been evacuated and shelters were being opened across the state for people stranded due to flooded roads. Heidt said crews were called out for swift-water rescues from Nashville to Memphis.

"It's so widespread, it's a very serious concern," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

NYC mayor: Vehicle contained explosive device

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg says a suspicious vehicle in Times Square "did indeed contain an explosive device." Police found the device in the smoking Nissan Pathfinder on Saturday evening. They then cleared the streets of tourists and dismantled it. The mayor spoke at a news conference early Sunday along with Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly. Kelly says the car contained three propane tanks, consumer-grade fireworks, two filled 5-gallon gasoline containers, and two clocks with batteries, electrical wire and other components. He says a black metal box resembling a gun locker was also recovered. Authorities say a Connecticut license plate on the vehicle did not match up. Police are looking for additional surveillance video.

Ark. gov declares state of emergency after storms

SCOTLAND, Ark. (AP)—Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe has declared a state of emergency following Friday's deadly tornadoes. A spokesman says Beebe toured a community Saturday south of Little Rock that suffered extensive damage. The statewide declaration suspends regulations that could inhibit emergency crews from getting to storm-damaged areas. At least two more tornadoes touched down late Saturday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or major damage. Meteorologists reported that the tornadoes were spotted in Prairie County, about 50 miles east of Little Rock, but also about 40 miles north in Faulkner County. Tornadoes ripped through neighboring Van Buren County late Friday, killing one woman and destroying several homes. Beebe is scheduled to tour the area Sunday.

Minn. officer killed in ambush, sets off manhunt

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—A suburban St. Paul police officer was killed during an ambush Saturday morning, setting off a massive manhunt that ended with one suspect dead and another in custody, authorities said. Maplewood Police Sgt. Joseph Bergeron, 49, was fatally shot while responding to a reported carjacking. A jogger on a nearby trail heard the shot that killed Bergeron, a married father of two and a 26-year police veteran, and turned back around to see two suspects fleeing, police said. The jogger used the officer's radio to call for help, and the carjacking victim warned police that at least one of the suspects was armed. "We're all grieving," Maplewood Police Chief David Thomalla said. "He's one of the finest people I know, and he was murdered today senselessly."

Asia

Maoists rally in Nepal, announce general strike

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Tens of thousands of former communist rebels and their supporters rallied in the capital Saturday demanding Nepal's coalition government be disbanded and replaced by a Maoist-led government.

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal refused to resign and instead called on the Maoists to resolve the Himalayan country's political crisis through dialogue.

In response, Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal announced to cheering supporters they would launch an indefinite general strike from Sunday.

"It is not our pleasure but compulsion to impose the general strike to save the nation and the people," Dahal said. "Revolution and major political changes in Nepal have come through street protests."

Police estimated some 125,000 people joined the Maoists' rally.

The standoff has raised fears of renewed violence in Nepal, where the Maoists ended their decade-old insurgency and joined a peace process in 2006.

Thai premier says no plans for martial law

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's prime minister said Sunday that he had no plans to declare martial law despite growing demands the government take firmer measures to end protests that have paralyzed parts of Bangkok for seven weeks.

Many Thais have grown increasingly frustrated with the stalemate, which has claimed the lives of at least 27 people, cost the country tens of millions of dollars, and sparked concerns of a flare-up of civil unrest.

Speaking ahead of an emergency Cabinet meeting expected to address the crisis, Prime

Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said the government had a plan for ending the crisis—but he declined to say what it was.

"I insist that the government has a clear approach," he said in his weekly television address. "All responsibilities rest with me. Every decision has been made. At the moment it's at the stage of execution for the most successful outcome."

Abhisit did not elaborate on what those decisions were, though he expressed willingness to make some compromises.

"Those violating the law must cease, whereas the government

should not ignore the political demands," he said.

The Red Shirts, who view the government as an illegitimate puppet of Bangkok's urban elite and the military, are demanding Abhisit resign, dissolve Parliament and call new elections.

Abhisit has publicly suspended talks with the protesters but says he still hopes a political solution will persuade the thousands of so-called Red Shirts to abandon the barricaded encampment they have set up in the streets of the capital. He has not ruled out a crackdown, which would almost certainly add to the bloodshed.

month, yielded homemade explosives and paraphernalia, grenades and mortar rounds, said military spokeswoman Lt. Steffani Cacho. One soldier was killed and seven wounded when elite army troops attacked the camp on the outskirts of Sumisip township Tuesday and Wednesday, she said. There were unconfirmed reports that five militants died and two were hurt, Cacho said.

Taiwan-China flight diverted after explosive claim

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A flight from the Taiwanese capital to the eastern Chinese city of Shanghai was diverted to a nearby Chinese airport after a passenger traveling on a U.S. passport told cabin crew his luggage contained explosives. Spokesman Bruce Chen of Taiwan's China Airlines said the plane landed safely at Hangzhou on Saturday and Chinese authorities took the passenger away for questioning. Chen identified the detained passenger as George Lin and said he was traveling on a U.S. passport. He said that Lin did not appear to have been drinking excessively. "The passenger told the cabin crew very calmly that he had explosives in his luggage," Chen said. "After the plane landed in Hangzhou, it was very carefully checked and nothing was found."

ASIAN BRIEFS

3 nations warn of terror attacks planned in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—The U.S., Australia and Canada warned Saturday that terror groups were likely planning "imminent attacks" in India's capital and foreigners there should be vigilant. The U.S. Embassy's alert, adding the word "imminent," appeared to be more urgent than an advisory last month that cited increased indications of attacks in New Delhi. The warnings noted that markets and other areas frequented by Westerners in New Delhi have been targeted in past attacks. Militants linked to Pakistan-based Islamic groups have been blamed for previous attacks in the Indian capital. The U.S. alert said Americans in India should maintain "a high level of vigilance," remain aware of their surroundings and watch out for unattended packages.

RP troops seize militant camp

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops overran a jungle camp used by al-Qaida-linked militants in recent deadly attacks in a two-day battle that killed one soldier and possibly up to five guerrillas, the military said Friday. The Abu Sayyaf encampment on southern Basilan Island, where 14 people were killed in a militant attack early this



A Communist flag flutters as supporters of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) participate in a mass protest rally in Katmandu, Nepal, Saturday, May 1, 2010.

pal, refused to step down.

"The government formed with the support of majority in parliament can be changed only through legal parliamentary process," Nepal said, urging the Maoists to cancel their general strike and "move toward forming national consensus."

Some 15,000 police in riot gear were guarding the streets of Katmandu for Saturday's rally. Traffic was halted and shops and markets were closed.

World

Pope takes break from scandal, visits Turin Shroud

TURIN, Italy (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI is taking a break from dealing with the clerical sex abuse scandal to visit the Shroud of Turin, the linen with an image of a man on it that some believe is Christ's burial cloth and others dismiss as a medieval fake.

Benedict is spending the day Sunday in the northern city of Turin, celebrating Mass, meeting with young people and the infirm, and then praying before

the Shroud, one of the most important relics in Christianity.

The 14-foot-long, 3.5-foot-wide (4.3-meter-long, 1 meter-wide) cloth has gone on public display for the first time since the 2000 Millennium celebrations and a subsequent 2002 restoration. Kept in a bullet-proof, climate-controlled case in Turin's cathedral, it has drawn some 1.5 million reservations from pilgrims and tourists eager to spend three to five

minutes viewing it.

Benedict's visit is a bit of a respite from meetings with bishops to discuss resignations from inside their ranks over sex abuse by priests of children and the bishops' failure to report it to civil authorities. In the past week, Benedict met with German bishops to discuss one high-profile resignation and he has another such meeting planned Monday with Belgian bishops.

Arab nations back indirect peace talks with Israel

CAIRO (AP)—Arab nations on Saturday endorsed indirect peace talks between the Palestinians and Israelis, a move that likely paves the way for the start of long-stalled U.S.-brokered negotiations.

The United States has proposed the talks to end the impasse between Israelis and Palestinians over the conditions for resuming negotiations, which broke down

more than a year ago amid Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip.

The green light from Arab foreign ministers comes after a first attempt to get indirect talks going collapsed in March when Israel announced a new Jewish housing project in east Jerusalem. The Israeli decision enraged Palestinians, who claim east Jerusalem as a future capital, and drew fierce

criticism from the United States. It also led to the worst rift in years between the U.S. and Israel, Washington's closest Mideast ally.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has signaled that he is willing to resume negotiations, but has been waiting for approval from Arab countries, which would provide Abbas the political cover he needs to return to talks.

Some profit from wives despite French polygamy ban

PARIS (AP)—The burqa, or face-covering veil, is getting all the attention in the debate over Muslim immigrants in France. But another controversial tradition among some immigrants is less noticed and far more widespread: Polygamy.

The issue resurfaced last week after a woman received a traffic citation in the western city of Nantes for driving with a veil over her face. Offi-

cials then accused her husband of having at least three other wives, and said he may be profiting from them financially while the state pays the bill.

Polygamy is one of several issues, like forced marriage or genital mutilation, that France and other European nations face, as immigrants arrive with customs that conflict with the law of the land. But experts say polygamy in France can also be linked

to fraud, where husbands hijack a generous social welfare system to line their pockets with state funds from each of their wives.

"They practice polygamy just for that," said Jean-Marie Ballo, founder of an association that helps women escape from polygamous situations, Nouveaux Pas, or New Steps. "I'd go so far as to say that polygamists here (in France) are breeding for cash."

WORLD BRIEFS

Hundreds of thousands march to mark Cuba's May Day

HAVANA (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of Cubans marched through the sprawling, concrete expanses of Revolution Plaza on Saturday in annual May Day celebrations that the government said prove the island supports its communist system even amid mounting international criticism over human rights. The turnout has long been massive for International Workers' Day, but this year officials assigned the event special meaning, saying it was Cuba's response to Washington, the European Union and international journalists who have conspired to tarnish its reputation after the February death of a jailed dissident hunger striker and a protest by another opposition activist who has refused food for weeks. Pro-government crowds dispatched in well-organized shifts also blocked a small, weekly march by a women's group supporting political prisoners for three weeks running in Havana.

are taking following an influx of insurgents into the country from the Afghanistan conflict, fighters who are now training Somali militants. The targeted mosque is tiny—only about 25 square yards (meters)—and sits in a crowded market among electronic shops. Rugs that line the mosque floor were set on fire, and streaks of blood and black smoke charred the walls.

Somali militants increasing use of child soldiers

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Sharif says he was 10 when his religious teacher led his class into a poor neighborhood of Somalia's capital to pray for a sick relative. Suddenly Islamist fighters jumped from the shadows and ordered the children onto buses, the beginning of a terrifying two years as a child soldier. The class was taken to a training base in the south of the anarchic country, Sharif says, where Somali and foreign instructors showed them how to use weapons and set ambushes. The boy says before battle he was sometimes given drugs that made him feel like he could "pick up a tank and throw it aside like a telephone." The recruitment of child fighters in Somalia is on the rise, both by the government and particularly by the country's most powerful Islamist militia, al-Shabab, whose name means "the youth." Al-Shabab's recruitment of children may partly stem from a lack of willing adults, who have been alienated by Islamist attacks on traditional Sufi saints and bans on everything from chewing qat, a mildly narcotic leaf, to school bells and music.

Explosions inside a Somali mosque kill at least 30

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Two bombs exploded inside a small mosque in Mogadishu's main market on Saturday, killing at least 30 people in the first Iraq-style bombing inside a house of worship in Somalia, officials said. The blasts in the Bakara market went off while people were sitting inside the Abdala Shidye mosque waiting for noon prayers. The bombings highlight the increasingly violent path Somali militants

Health & Fitness

Research dispels myths about rural fitness



Charles Hughes and Amanda Dow hike down from Mount Major in Alton, N.H., Wednesday, April 14, 2010.

By HOLLY RAMER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—From hiking and biking to skiing and shoveling snow, staying physically active in rural northern New England might sound like a cinch. But researchers who have begun exploring how to promote healthy living in rural communities are digging beneath that scenic surface.

"From the outside looking in, you say, 'Oh, they don't need a park, they have the woods. But the woods can be as much of a deterrent to being physically active as a freeway, depending on how you look at it,'" said Barbara McCahan, director of the Center for Active Living and Healthy Communities at Plymouth State University.

The New Hampshire school is one of a handful of universities looking at ways to encourage active living, health and wellness in rural places. Researchers say the work is important because people living in rural communities are at greater risk for obesity, and past research focused on cities and suburbs has often produced conclusions that are a poor fit for rural towns.

Adding sidewalks and bike paths so children can exercise on their way to school makes sense in cities and suburbs, but those aren't realistic options in a rural town where the school is on the outskirts, said David Hartley, director of the Maine Rural Health Research Center at the University of Southern Maine.

His research has included running focus groups in three Maine towns to identify opportunities for and obstacles to physical activity. For children in particular, transportation is a major barrier, he said.

"To get kids more physically active, one of the options seems to be getting more kids participating in after-school programs, but the busing situation is such that the bus goes home at 3 o'clock, and if you want to stay later you have to get a ride," he said. "If you're from a low-income family, you may not be able to get a ride. Chances are,

your parents are already working two jobs, and they just can't help you out."

Kyle Santheson is the town recreation director in Waldoboro, Maine, a coastal town of about 5,000 residents and one of the communities Hartley has studied. He said there are a range of athletic programs for children and adults—from Little League to co-ed softball leagues—and many parents carpool. But some children do end up left out.

More than one parent has told him, "Geez, I really can't have my kid participate because he doesn't have a ride."

Beyond organized athletic and recreation programs, Hartley also found that the notion that rural residents have unlimited access to outdoor recreation and open space simply by stepping outside their doors didn't ring true.

Hiking trails are largely informal and unmarked, overrun by snowmobiles in the winter and all-terrain vehicles in the summer.

Though there are well-maintained hiking trails around Waldoboro's high school, other trails are on private land held in trust and require a property owner's permission to use, Santheson said. A quick phone call is usually all it takes, he said, "But most people, if they have to go through one extra step, they say, 'Oh, the heck with it.'"

That common attitude must be kept in mind when trying to promote physical activity, said Deborah John, who spearheaded Plymouth State's research and is now an assistant professor at Oregon State University.

"We need to do a better job of making the healthy choices the easy choices," she said. "And it needs to be informed by the people who live in the environment."

Some people may move to the country because they enjoy the kind of outdoor experiences a rural area provides. But others—people who were born in a rural area or live there for other reasons—might not want to go on a solitary hike because they don't feel safe alone and would prefer more

companionship and structure.

Bringing those two groups together can be challenging, John said. For example, avid rock climbers might not want to make their favorite rocks more accessible by building parking lots or offering climbing lessons.

That's why it's important to get input from the people who live in rural areas rather than try to impose some outside notion of what should be done, she said.

To that end, researchers at Plymouth State worked with residents of three rural towns to create a Google-style "active living" map, with captions of certain features—a favorite bike route, for example—provided by residents.

"It's one thing to go into a community and do research, it's another thing to get the people who live there to help do the research," said McCahan. "The people were actually generating the information. We weren't standing there watching people. ... What did was stimulate their interest in the whole process."

In Maine, Bob Faunce drives 15 miles to another town to exercise at a YMCA, but he knows others in his rural town don't have that option if they don't have cars or aren't old enough to drive.

"There's no other place in the country I would rather live than in Maine, but the fact is, recreational opportunities are extremely limited," said Faunce. "And it's a terrible shame, especially for the kids."

But as the Lincoln County planner, Faunce has seen some progress in the few years since Hartley's focus groups. The state is changing its requirements about school construction so new schools might not end up far so from a town center, and projects are in the works to make towns more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly.

"Of all the projects I've been involved with that require community input, these things get more input than any other projects," he said. "There's a latent desire that people have. They just want to do some type of exercise where they live."

Life & Style

Obama takes digs at birthers, GOP, his advisers



Kate Capshaw, left, Director Steven Spielberg, second from left, Michelle Pfeiffer, second from right, and David E. Kelley attend the 2010 White House Correspondents' Dinner at the Washington Hilton Saturday, May 1, 2010, in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama shared some words of wisdom on Saturday, saying there a few things in life harder to find and more important to keep than love.

"Well, love and a birth certificate," Obama quipped at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner, poking fun at those who question his place of birth. "I happen to know that my approval ratings are still very high in the country of my birth." Obama was born in Hawaii, but birthers question whether he was born overseas.

Obama also jabbed Jay Leno, the comedian headlining the dinner. Obama dinged Leno as "the only person whose ratings fell more than mine."

He said he was glad he spoke before the "The Tonight Show" host, "because we have all seen what happens when somebody takes the time slot after Leno." Comic Conan O'Brien left NBC after his stint hosting "The Tonight Show" following Leno didn't work out.

He took aim at his own administration too, cracking jokes about Vice President Joe Biden and his chief of staff Rahm Emanuel.

Republicans were also the victims of many Obama punch lines. The president noted Sen. John McCain's claim this year that he was not identified as a maverick. "We know what happens in Arizona when you don't have an ID. ... Adios amigos," Obama quipped, referring to a

new law in Arizona that targets illegal immigration.

He wasn't hesitant to mention the attention-hungry couple who crashed his state dinner last fall. "Odds are that the Salahis are here. There haven't been people that were more unwelcome at a party since Charlie Crist," he said about the Florida governor who decided to defect from the Republican party.

Although his poll numbers are down, Obama said he hears he's popular on Twitter and Facebook. "Or as Sarah Palin calls it, socialized media," he said.

Leno picked up on this joke to take a dig at Obama, saying the president isn't as aloof as some critics say he is. "He loves to socialize—heath care, car companies," Leno said, naming a few industries in which the Obama administration has intervened.

Obama also acknowledged the problems facing the Gulf coast after the disastrous BP oil spill. He plans to go to the Gulf Coast Sunday for a firsthand assessment on efforts to contain the massive oil spill from an offshore drilling rig.

Among the 3,000 guests on hand included Olympic gold medalist Lindsey Vonn, comedian Chevy Chase, actor Alec Baldwin, comedian Bill Maher, actress Michelle Pfeiffer, actor Dennis Quaid, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, GOP Chairman Michael Steele, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, White

House senior adviser David Axelrod, the Jonas brothers and another teen heartthrob, pop star Justin Bieber.

Hollywood heavyweights Michel Douglas, Steven Spielberg were seen chatting with Emmanuel.

At the dinner, the White House Correspondents' Association introduced students who received college scholarships.

Honored at the dinner were several journalists:

■ Ben Feller of The Associated Press and Jake Tapper of ABC News, for winning the Merriman Smith Award for presidential coverage under deadline pressure. Feller won for his coverage of Obama's unexpected late-night visit to Dover Air Force Base to honor fallen soldiers. Tapper won for his story that revealed tax problems of former Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

■ Mark Knoller, of CBS News, for winning the Aldo Beckman award for sustained excellence in White House coverage. Knoller won for his work covering the White House for more than 35 years and in using multiple platforms to report.

■ Suzanne Bohan and Sandy Kleffman, of the Contra Costa (Calif.) Times, for winning the Edgar A. Poe Award for excellence in coverage of news of national or regional significance. They were cited for a four-part series entitled, "Shortened Lives: Where You Live Matters."

3 arrests in death of magician from 'Tonight Show'

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Police have arrested three people on suspicion of killing a young magician known as "El Magnifico" who has performed on "The Tonight Show."

Anaheim Police announced the arrests Friday, two days

after 19-year-old Adrian Ramos was gunned down during a robbery attempt while walking home from a class at Fullerton College.

Ramos, who called himself "El Magnifico," performed at charity events, at Hollywood's Magic Castle and

China Trails 3: The Shanghainan Dome

Coming to Shanghai on the eve of Expo 2010 is like going to NYC's Macy's (or, Joeten, for us locals) on Christmas Eve. No one in his right mind would possibly do that, but as New Yorkers will happily attest, the bedlam at any store the day before Christmas is an adrenaline-inducing adventure by itself.

We first caught sight of this city five months after the fateful Tiananmen Square national turning in '89 that saw the chaotic forces of democratic change chastened by the slow but firm hand of the centralized control of the military arm of the Communist Party, and the gentle prodding of the amiable Uncle Deng Xiao Peng to open the country's economy to the influence of market forces in trade and industry.

This was in the transition period from the '80s into the '90s. Previous combatants in revolutionary warfare were getting old and giving way to civil engineers at the helm of the State's infrastructures, finally getting us engineer Hu Jin Tao as head of the Politburo. This year's overheating economy a tad short of 12 percent growth at a time of global recession is either a remarkable feat at economic planning, a masterful sleight of hands in economic statistics, or local consumers have finally opened up their saving's accounts to face the challenge. It appears that the latter is the case here.

Post-Tiananmen, Pudong across the Huangpu on the east side of the city was nothing but a swath of green fields with marsh fishes and birds in rice paddies. Now, it looks like the Trump glass towers on NYC's Riverside Drive have moved westward but with more architectural diversity and with the ambience of suburban homes in the State of Connecticut and Long Island.

The flight from Saipan to Shanghai was remarkably full. The youngish looking crowd had families with tots and toddlers. I was seated besides a precocious two year old who looked remarkably like a Shanghai *hu zi* we got to know very well the early part of this decade. A self-conscious brat who relished the sole attention she got as part of the one-child-per-family program, my seatmate had her parents by the nose! For one at her age, this two year old certainly knew her way at manipulating her adult audience, a feature common among families with only one child. This image of self-confidence seems to have been carried into today's generation, a winning stance in today's highly competitive world.

I had come for an interview with an English language school at Yangshuo in Guangxi (south of Sichuan and Qinghai, the quake-devastated provinces in the last two years) that offered to host our peripatetic pedagogy for a couple of years, with a closer and livelier attention to teachers' welfare than what had been shown in my last two years at PSS (neh, neh, neh, neh, neh, neh, neh!). Of course, I am partial to PSS, and since I am past anger and rage, I can only grieve for its continuing structural deficiencies in spite of the goodwill

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE



A Shanghainan Station personnel cleans the roof of the arriving and departing train level on the passenger waiting lounge section under the dome of the state-of-the-art edifice built in time for the Shanghai 2010 World Expo.

JAIME VERGARA

OJ Simpson acquittal suit arrives at Newseum in DC

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The suit O.J. Simpson wore on the day he was acquitted of murder has been delivered to the Newseum in Washington, D.C., where it will be part of a display focusing on the trial that was viewed by millions.

Susan Bennett, vice president and deputy director of the museum of news, said the Armani was transported Thursday by Simpson's former manager, Mike Gilbert, who had it in storage for nearly 15 years. Gilbert flew to Washington from California carrying the tan suit, white shirt and gold tie in a garment bag.

Bennett said the clothing has been placed in the artifact preparation area and Newseum officials hope to have it ready for display by October, which will mark the 15th anniversary of Simpson's acquittal in the 1994 slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Simpson was acquitted Oct. 3, 1995, after a televised trial that riveted the nation.

"We are very careful with all of our acquisitions," Bennett said. "It is being evaluated and we will have



AP
Mike Gilbert, former agent for O.J. Simpson, holds Simpson's suit at the Newseum where it is being acquired in Washington, on Thursday, April 29, 2010.

professional mount makers prepare the display."

Bennett said the suit will be in a collection that includes press pass-

es, newspapers and the mute button that Superior Court Judge Lance Ito used when he wanted to shut off the live microphone in court so lawyers could talk privately during the trial. The exhibit will focus on media coverage of the so-called trial of the century.

The acquisition ends a 13-year legal battle between Gilbert and Fred Goldman, the father of Ronald Goldman. Both men claimed the right to the clothing.

Fred Goldman has been trying to collect virtually anything from Simpson to satisfy a \$33.5 million judgment from the trial of a lawsuit that found Simpson civilly liable for the deaths. At one point he wanted to sell the suit, but Gilbert claimed it was his property.

Gilbert came up with the idea of a donation to a museum.

The suit was first offered to the Smithsonian Institution, but the museum said it was not appropriate for its collection. The Museum of Crime and Punishment in Washington also had been trying to acquire the suit, but the parties decided the appropriate venue was the Newseum, Gilbert said.

of its leadership and administrative teams. But that's another story for the telling.

For now, I am agog at the new edifice I stumbled into, the Shanghainan dome. *Nan* is south in Putonghua as *Bei* is north, (Nanjing and Beijing are south and north cities, respectively); *Dong* is east as *Xi* is west (Pudong and Puxi are east and west of the Pu river in Shanghai). Shanghainan is the new train station of the city that shames not a few airports in the world. Located south of the city, close to the city's famed sports arena and gymnasium. Obviously designed for centralized efficiency, the dome that is easily the size of an American football stadium can process incoming and departing passengers at speeds less than half of the time it takes the older train stations. And that is in a culture that consciously defied the tradition of the queue!

Impressive as the amenities are in what must be the state of the art in train station management, and evidently completed in time for the world to see in the upcoming Shanghai 2010 World Expo, the reality of the wily human factor is harder to manage.

After the Lunar New Year in March, Shanghai announced a strict implementation of the no-smoking ban in public places. This is religiously followed at the airports, the Metro, and public offices. Efforts to do the same at the Shanghainan dome are meeting resistance from passengers (a well-dressed passenger was puffing away without hesitation at the elevated KFC kiosk in the dome); the common folks retire to the restrooms for their nicotine fix, which irritates ex-smokers like me with the thick second-hand fumes. This "addiction" should not come as any surprise since the country has the highest ratio of tobacco smokers per population than anywhere in the world. Many government levels also either own, or strongly promote, the tobacco enterprises that produce the myriad of brands available in the market.

Shanghainan is the future. So is Renmin Park, a favorite hangout a decade ago, if only for its tranquil and equanimous surroundings in the din of the city's unrelenting commerce from the street level to the board rooms of its towering edifices. At the end of the fame Nanjing Road walking mall, the park in a decade has become the center of the city's Metro (subway) even as it continues to promote Chinese chic and culture, and retain its character as a serene peoples' park.

The City Planning office in the Park has a 3-D map of the whole city that occupies a whole floor of its building, a most imaginal displays of a people's physical vision of its future. In one of the meetings at the Chamber of Commerce I voiced the value of having a similar map for Saipan, either displayed at the Paseo, or at the Multi-Purpose center. The suggestion did not get anywhere. Maybe the American Memorial Park folks can pick up the idea.

What is obvious in Shanghainan, the rebellion on smoking notwithstanding, is the sense that the populace has a sense of owning the place and belonging to a nation, that even with its allegedly stifling bureaucracies and entrenched apparatchiks of the one-party government system, that the sense of community abides. For a nation that has flowered into its own (Time Magazine focuses on Shanghai in this week's issue), it is well for those within its cosmopolitan sphere of influence (a little humility will not hurt), to relate again to the Middle Kingdom.

Doctor: Bret Michaels' will to live 'undeniable'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bret Michaels' is expected to make a full recovery, according to his doctor. The 47-year-old former Poison frontman's will to live is "undeniable," said Dr. Joseph Zabramski, chief of cerebrovascular surgery at the Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, who has been leading the team treating "The Celebrity Apprentice" contestant since he suffered a brain hemorrhage last week.

"Mr. Michaels will continue to undergo testing considering we have hit a few roadblocks, including hyponatremia, severe cranial and back pain suffered from blood drainage, an emergency appendectomy performed a week earlier and a lifelong history of Type 1 diabetes,"

Zabramski said in a statement released Friday by Michaels' publicist, Joann Mignano.

Michaels, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 6 and underwent an emergency appendectomy April 12, was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital last week with a severe headache. He was later diagnosed with a subarachnoid hemorrhage, which causes bleeding in the fluid-filled spaces around the base of the brain. The cause of the hemorrhage is still unknown.

"There is no doubt that Mr. Michaels' condition is serious," Zabramski added.

He said Michaels, who has two daughters, 9-year-old Raine Elizabeth and 4-year-old Jorja Bleu, "did not want his family to wake up and see him lying unconscious in the middle of the floor." He also said immediate

medical attention and Michaels' "fight to stay conscious during the hemorrhage" enabled doctors to stabilize his condition.

Other doctors said it is possible that Michaels could be healthy enough to appear on "The Celebrity Apprentice" live finale May 23. He is currently one of seven contestants remaining on Donald Trump's competitive reality series, including pop singer Cyndi Lauper, reality TV diva Sharon Osbourne, celebrity chef Curtis Stone and actress Holly Robinson Peete.

"If all the studies he had done show no evidence of an aneurysm being found, it would really just depend on his energy level," said Dr. Ronald Benitez, director of cerebrovascular surgery at Overlook Hospital in Summit, N.J. "If all the tests were negative, and I was watch-

ing the show at the end of May, I personally wouldn't be surprised if he was on it."

Michaels already filmed most of "The Celebrity Apprentice" last fall. However, the finale requires the last two contestants to debate against each other live in front of Trump. If Michaels ascends to the final showdown, it would be unprecedented in "The Apprentice" franchise history if he is not present to defend himself in the boardroom.

"We've never been confronted with anything like this," Trump told Matt Lauer on NBC's "Today" show Tuesday. "He is still in the show. He's doing really, really well, and all of sudden ... I can't imagine. It's going to be live for two hours, and it's going to be in four weeks. I can't imagine he's going to be on the finale, but he very well might be."



AP

In this April 9, 2008 file photo, Poison lead singer Bret Michaels poses for a portrait in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles.

Pa. town engulfed by rumors about Beyoncé, Jay-Z

NEW RINGGOLD, Pa. (AP)—Hey, didja hear the news? Beyoncé and Jay-Z are moving to Schuylkill County, Pa.!

That's the rumor swirling around these parts: That the singer and her rap mogul husband, Grammy Award winners both, are planning to buy a multimillion-dollar spread on 210 secluded acres in eastern Pennsylvania.

What began as idle gossip has turned into an article of faith among many here.

People are talking about it in grocery stores and pharmacies, at the fitness center and kids' T-ball games, online and over the phone. One fan even posted a welcome message on Beyoncé's official website.

No one seems to know how the rumor got started. No deed has been recorded in the courthouse, no real estate transfer tax has been paid, and the celebs have yet to request a showing, according to the real estate agent listing the house.

But the gossip persists, spurred by unconfirmed sightings of Beyoncé at several businesses, from Boyer's supermarket to Heisler's dairy bar. And who was riding in that black Lamborghini seen tooling around town?

Beyoncé fans Brooke Shilling and Anne Tomtishen, college students from nearby Pottsville and Ringtown, drove up to the front gate after class one day this week, excited by the prospect of one of the planet's best-known celebrity couples making a home in Schuylkill County (pronounced SKOO'-kuhl).

"I'm gonna tell everyone I'm their neighbors. It's in-



In this April 27, 2010 photo, a 16,000-square-foot home in New Ringgold, Pa., in Schuylkill County, is seen.

sane!" gushed Shilling, 20.

Added Tomtishen, 23: "Maybe she'll have babies. That would be awesome!"

At first, the notion they would buy a house here seems farfetched, even ludicrous. Schuylkill County is an economically struggling region best known for the Yuengling brewery, Mrs. T's Pierogies, the Molly Maguires and a coal mining industry that is a shadow of its former self. In other words, it's a celebrity-free zone.

"I don't believe they'll be here, unless they get a taste for Yuengling," scoffed Jonathan Moss, 54, of nearby Orwigsburg.

Upon further inspection, though, the idea has a certain logic.

Beyoncé and Jay-Z could do a lot worse than the unique wood-and-stone hillside contemporary at the heart of the

matter. Listed at \$11.9 million, it's got 16,000 square feet of living space and stunning views of Hawk Mountain, a popular birdwatching spot. The property comes with a vintage eight-bedroom Sears house, a one-bedroom guest house, a restored bank barn and frontage on the trout-stocked Little Schuylkill River. (Does Beyoncé fish?)

It's also convenient—just over two hours west of Manhattan by stretch limo, even closer by helicopter or private plane.

And the region does have a few celebrity claims to fame, including 1930s bandleaders Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey and Muhammad Ali, who had a training camp a few miles away in Deer Lake.

The rumor has brought plenty of attention to the ultra-luxe property, but Beyoncé and Jay-Z haven't expressed an interest in

it, said Ericka Kirkpatrick, the agent who is listing the house.

"I am just humored," she said. "We have no idea what the deal is or where it got started. ... We are just being bombarded with craziness. This is so absurd!"

Jeff Faust, chairman of the local board of supervisors, said no one has approached the township about putting in a helipad—another rumor making the rounds.

"It's amazing what people will come up with," he said. "Believe me, I'd love for that property to sell. The township gets a nice chunk of change from the realty transfer tax."

The stars' reps aren't commenting, which means this rumor will likely persist at least until the house is sold. So who knows? There may be a Yuengling or two in their future after all.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A successful entertainment attorney who was married to actress Catherine Bach was found dead in an apparent suicide Friday, coroners officials said.

Peter Lopez, 60, died of a gunshot wound at his home in the Encino Hills, coroner's office operations chief Craig Harvey said.

A neighbor reported hearing a shot and someone at the home found Lopez's body, coroners officials said.

Bach and her two daughters suffered a "tragic personal loss," said her publicist, Steve Rohr.

Bach played Daisy Duke in the 1980s TV series "The Dukes of Hazzard."

Lopez was Michael Jackson's music attorney for several years, according to Alfred Newman, a spokesman for the firm Lopez helped found, Kleinberg Lopez Lange Cuddy & Klein. He also represented The Eagles, Andrea Bocelli and Michael Bublé.

"We are deeply shocked and saddened by the unexpected loss of our friend and partner," the firm said in a statement.

Lopez worked with singers,

record producers and songwriters and was a co-producer of the Jennifer Lopez film "Selena," a biopic about the beloved Tejano singer who was killed by the president of her fan club.

Raymone Bain, Michael Jackson's former general manager, said she hired Peter Lopez in 2006 as Jackson's entertainment attorney when she was reorganizing the singer's business affairs.

"I'd known Peter for 20 years," she said. When she was searching for a new legal team she said another of her clients, R&B singer Babyface, recommended Lopez.

"I can't think of a nicer individual," she said. "He was a good guy. I'm just so shocked."

She said Lopez traveled with her and Jackson to London for the World Music Awards and spoke to the singer quite often.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Lopez to the California State Athletic Commission, which regulates boxing, and as the director of the California Exposition and State Fair Board.

Lopez attended UCLA Law School.

Next Batman film to swoop into theaters in 2012

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A sequel to “The Dark Knight” will swoop into theaters in 2012.

Warner Bros. scheduled July 20, 2012, as the release date for the next installment of the Batman film franchise.

Director Christopher Nolan brought the Caped Crusader back to the big screen in 2005’s “Batman Begins” and 2008’s “The Dark Knight,” which earned over \$1 billion worldwide and garnered Heath Ledger a posthumous Oscar for his role as The Joker.

No other details about the film were announced Friday.

‘Glee’ star Lea Michele makes Time’s top 100 list



In this April 12, 2010 file photo, Lea Michele arrives at the “Glee” Spring Premiere Soiree in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—“Glee” star Lea Michele is joining the ranks of Brazil’s president and Lady Gaga as an honoree in Time magazine’s 100 most in-

fluential people issue. The 23-year-old triple threat co-stars as the annoyingly ambitious Rachel Berry on the Fox network hit show, a role that garnered her a Best Actress nomination at the Golden Globes.

The Time issue, on newsstands now, honors influential artists, heroes, leaders and thinkers.

On Tuesday, Michele will announce the 64th annual Tony nominations along with Jeff Daniels. She’s starred on Broadway in “Spring Awakening” and has also appeared in “Fiddler on the Roof” and “Les Misérables.”

Michele is also preparing for “Glee Live,” a sold-out, nationwide tour that kicks off in May.

Motown great Wonder says: “It is exciting to be at this college, the first northern college to accept African-Americans.”

The school with a history of tolerance and activism first accepted black students in the 1830s.

Earlier Friday, Wonder had performed with Oberlin musicians for local school children. Cosby also gave a performance on campus.



In this file image released by Warner Bros., Christian Bale stars as Bruce Wayne in “The Dark Knight.” Warner Bros. have announced July 20, 2012, as the release date for the next Batman film.

John Rich video fireworks, chopper rile neighbors

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Police were called to the home of country musician John Rich when neighbors complained about the noise from a night video shoot that used fireworks and a helicopter.

Police spokeswoman Kristin Mumford told The Tennessean that officers went to Rich’s Nashville home twice after neighbors reported a raucous party.

Mumford said there were no citations issued but Rich’s secu-

rity crew was asked to keep the noise down.

Warner Music Nashville spokeswoman Tree Paine said the filming was done with the proper permits.

Rich’s neighbors have complained before about the large, ultramodern home the singer calls Mount Richmore.

The newspaper reports that a sign on his gate warns people to keep out and adds, “Violators may be shot. Protected by the 2nd Amendment.”



In this Nov. 2, 2009 file photo, John Rich of the musical group, Big & Rich, performs at a rally for New York’s 23rd Congressional District Conservative Party candidate, Doug Hoffman, at the Jefferson County Agricultural Society Exhibition Hall in Watertown, N.Y.

Aretha Franklin cancels Jazz Fest appearance

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Soul legend Aretha Franklin has canceled her appearance at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, but organizers and fans got lucky with a replacement.

Earth, Wind & Fire happens to be in the area and offered to play on the popular music festival’s

largest stage on Friday night.

Festival spokesman Louis Edwards says the “Queen of Soul” told organizers on Thursday that she wouldn’t be able to perform. Edwards said she apologized to fans but wouldn’t give a reason why.

But Earth, Wind & Fire were

already scheduled to play Saturday in Biloxi, Miss., about 65 miles away. They played Jazz Fest last year to rave reviews.

Pearl Jam is scheduled to headline Saturday, and the set will be broadcast live online to Louisiana National Guard soldiers serving in Iraq.

Man adopts bachelor habits the minute he gets married

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: It seems the moment we got married a year ago, my husband promptly started gaining weight and adopting horrible habits. He has put on more than 100 pounds. I don’t want to nag him, but the magnitude of his bad habits is making me contemplate divorce.

If he hasn’t learned things like “garbage goes into the garbage can” or “aim for the bowl” by his age, is there any hope? Should I let him know our marriage may be in trouble?



Dear Abby

STILL A NEWLYWED IN UTAH

DEAR STILL A NEWLYWED: Are you telling me that you have sat in silence for an entire year while witnessing major changes in your husband’s behavior since the wedding? Something may be wrong with him, and he should be examined stem-to-stern by a doctor. Your husband may have a serious problem, and it follows that if he does, your marriage will, too. So for both your sakes, speak up, schedule him for a physical and try to remember that line you uttered regarding “in sickness and in health.”

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating “Irving” for about a year. He is intelligent, financially stable and loves me and my son. However, over the last seven or eight months he has said some things that have hurt me very much. For instance, he has told me to watch what I say around his business associates, and when he thinks I have been too loud around them, he tells me afterward—almost in a fatherly tone—that I need to keep it low key.

He isn’t the most sensitive or compassionate man I have ever met, and I find those to be important qualities in a mate. Irving has also made comments about my weight—specifically, that he doesn’t want me to gain any.

Some of my friends are telling me to drop him, but I have invested a year in this guy and I hate to think it was for nothing. He’s been talking marriage, and in the beginning I was excited. Now, I’m not so sure it’s a good idea. Can you help?

CAUTIOUS IN TENNESSEE

DEAR CAUTIOUS: If you’re looking for a supportive mate, Irving doesn’t appear to be the man for you. To stay with him because you have invested 12 months in the relationship is not sufficient reason to invest still more time. Face it, his tone may be “fatherly,” but he’s not your father, and he’ll always be critical.

DEAR ABBY: We will visit my in-laws for the holidays next December with our new baby. We stay in a hotel when we visit because the in-laws are both chain smokers and I am a non-smoker who is sensitive to smoke. This has created some distance between my in-laws and me. When we have visited in the past I resigned myself to the fact that they will smoke through our dinners and conversations.

Now that we have a little one, I do not want my in-laws to smoke in front of the baby. They don’t visit us; we visit them once a year. Can I ask that they not smoke in their home while my family is visiting?

MICHELE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR MICHELE: No. And even if your in-laws agreed, taking your baby into a house in which the carpets, walls and furniture are saturated with smoke would be counterproductive. When you visit, arrange your get-togethers at your hotel or in the home of other relatives who are non-smokers. Out of love for their grandchild, your in-laws should cooperate. If you need backup in making the request, discuss this with your baby’s pediatrician and get the facts and statistics about how damaging first-, second- and third-hand smoke is on a little one’s respiratory system.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., May 25, 2010, OR **MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than May 25, 2010, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

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/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

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LeBron, Cavs elbow past Celtics in Game 1



CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James always soars in the NBA playoffs.

Mo Williams finally rose to the occasion—literally.

Williams delivered his first dunk for Cleveland, a resounding slam that stunned Boston's Paul Pierce, shook the arena and ignited the Cavaliers, who rallied for a 101-93 victory over the Celtics on Saturday night after being outplayed for much of Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Williams' unexpected dunk over Pierce fueled a game-ending 43-24 spurt by the Cavs.

"I knew Mo could dunk," James said of his teammate, generously listed as 6-foot-1. "I told Mo a long time ago if he ever dunked in a game it was going to spark us like we haven't been sparked before. Not only did it fire the team, it fired himself up."

Hours before receiving his second straight MVP award, James scored 35 points and Williams added 20, 14 in the third quarter.

James, playing with a sprained and bruised right elbow, delivered yet another memorable performance as the Cavs withstood a furious punch from the Celtics, who led by 11 in the third and seem intent on making this a long series.

James, who also had seven rebounds and seven assists, drained a 3-pointer with 22 seconds left to put Boston away.

"It's been better," James said of his elbow. "But that's no excuse for me. I don't make any excuses and I'll be ready for (Game 2) Monday."

Historically, winning a series opener is a good omen for the Cavs, who are 10-0 when taking Game 1.

Rajon Rondo had 27 points and 12 assists and Kevin Garnett finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Celtics, who were held to 15 points in the fourth quarter.

For three quarters, the Celtics looked like their old selves.

Dismissed as being washed up, the 17-time NBA champions controlled the tempo from the start. With Rondo driving past Williams and any other defender in front of him, the Celtics were on the verge of swiping home-court advantage away from Cleveland.

But James, who seemed to be bothered by the elbow early on, picked it up down the stretch.

He always does.

"You knew it was coming," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "I thought toward the end of the second quarter he started his assault."

LeBron humbled by second MVP

CLEVELAND (AP)—One MVP trophy wasn't enough for LeBron James.

James, who raised his game to another level while leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to 61 wins in the regular season, said Saturday he's grateful to win the league's top individual award for the second straight season. He will receive the trophy on Sunday in his hometown of Akron.

"It's another humbling experience," he said before the Cavs hosted Boston in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals. "It's hard to grasp, honestly. You put in a lot of hard work as an individual, you get an opportunity to showcase your



AP
Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) tries to shoot between Boston Celtics' Rasheed Wallace (30) and Tony Allen in the first quarter of Game 1 in the second round of the NBA basketball playoff series Saturday, May 1, 2010, in Cleveland.

After Rondo split a pair of free throws with 4:30 left, James drove the lane and missed a short shot but grabbed his own rebound and banked it in to put the Cavs ahead 94-91.

Garnett's bucket got the Celtics within one, but James countered with a floater in the lane. After Paul Pierce missed a wide-open 3-pointer, Shaquille O'Neal, who looked slow and ev-

ery one of his 38 years during stretches, scored on a tip to make it 98-93 with 1:02 remaining.

Following a Boston turnover, James came up with the decisive blow. Pulling up on the left side, he buried a 3-pointer that finally allowed 20,000 Cleveland fans to exhale and scream their lungs out. James, called "the closer" by his teammates, scored

"the closer" by his teammates, scored

mediately after player introductions.

The 25-year-old averaged 29.7 points, 7.3 rebounds and 8.6 assists this season. He will receive his award at Rhodes Arena at the University of Akron, a gym he played in many times as a high school star.

James won in a landslide last season, getting 109 of a possible 121 first-place votes. No player has ever won the award unanimously in voting by a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Cavaliers center Shaquille O'Neal received 120 of 121 first-place votes in 2000.

12 points in the fourth.

"He's a guy that is going to deliver," Cavs coach Mike Brown said. "As the game went along he got more and aggressive and the shots started to fall."

James tried just two outside shots in the first half, and came out of the locker room at halftime shaking his right arm, which he said has been bothering him periodically for a month. But the elbow appeared as healthy as ever when James needed it to respond.

"Throughout the game it loosened up," said James, who will receive his MVP trophy on Sunday in his hometown of Akron. "I have a no-excuse policy. This team has a no-excuse policy. ... We're about coming out and competing against the Celtics."

James closed the third with a twisting, falling-down layup at the horn, capping a 21-9 spurt that put the Cavaliers up 79-78, their first lead since 7-6.

Williams, though, was the one who carried the Cavs back. He scored 14 in the period and delivered his facial on Pierce that sparked the Cavs and a sellout crowd that was growing nervous with every Rondo drive, Garnett bucket and Ray Allen jumper.

Cleveland trailed 69-58 when Williams grabbed a loose ball and raced down the floor before slamming it over Pierce, who was probably expecting the guard to try a layup.

"I saw him jump," said Williams, whose struggles in the postseason last year hurt the Cavs. "Paul is 6-7, 6-8. I thought he'd block a layup. I was kind

of high. I thought I could try. It turned out good. It was a great feeling, I'll tell you that."

This is the second time in three years that the Cavs and Celtics are meeting in the conference semifinals, and there is no love lost between them. In 2008, the Celtics won a rugged series in seven games on their way to the championship, and if Game 1 was any indication, this series could be equally entertaining.

"This not going to be easy for either team, you can see that," Rivers said.

The Celtics were the better team in the first half. Their ball movement was crisp, they were winning the rebound battle and the Cavs had no answer for Rondo, who had 19 points at intermission.

Cleveland put the 6-foot-6 Anthony Parker on Rondo in the third quarter and the adjustment slowed the Celtics' lightning-quick point guard.

"We let them play way too comfortable in the second half," Rivers said. "I thought we let down in the second half."

James was never convinced Boston wasn't dangerous, and his suspicions were proven correct when the Celtics hardly looked like Relics in the first round, dismantling Miami in five games.

"Everyone was saying how bad Boston was and they don't look motivated anymore, but I never fell into that trap," James said. "They know the big picture."

NBA BRIEFS

Lakers' center Bynum has small meniscus tear

EL SEGUNDO, California (AP)—Lakers center Andrew Bynum has a small tear in the meniscus in his right knee, leaving him questionable for Los Angeles' second-round playoff opener against the Utah Jazz. Lakers coach Phil Jackson said Bynum might try to play through the pain in Sunday's opener at Staples Center. Bynum hyperextended his knee in the first half of the Lakers' series-clinching win over Oklahoma City on Friday night, but played the second half wearing a brace. An MRI exam on Saturday revealed the tiny tear, which apparently was aggravated by his injury. Bynum missed the last 13 games of the regular season with a strained Achilles' tendon, but returned to average 12 points, nine rebounds and 2.2 blocked shots while starting all six games against the Thunder.

Hip keeps Nash out of practice until Spurs opener

PHOENIX (AP)—Phoenix playmaker Steve Nash sat out practice on Saturday and will do so again on Sunday to rest his sore right hip. The two-time league MVP said the rest should make him ready for Monday night's Western Conference semifinal opener against the San Antonio Spurs. The team had Friday off, so that would mean three days' rest before he plays again. "It's getting better," Nash said on Saturday. "I've had two good days, so I'm really fortunate that we don't play until Monday. It will give me a chance to recover a little bit." The 36-year-old point guard strained the hip during the shootaround before Game 3 of the Suns' first-round series against Portland. He says the

injury bothered him that night, but he felt better in Games 4 and 5. However, he says the injury "was pretty bad" in Phoenix's series clinching 99-90 victory in Portland on Thursday night. "It was the worst that it's been, so a couple of days here are really good for me," he said. Coach Alvin Gentry called Nash's problem "a little hip thing" and no big deal. "If it was a big deal I wouldn't be so calm," Gentry said.

Johnson to talk with 76ers, Hornets next week

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Former Dallas Mavericks coach Avery Johnson is scheduled to talk to the Philadelphia 76ers and New Orleans Hornets next week about their coaching vacancies. Johnson said he will meet with the Sixers on Monday and Hornets on Tuesday in Texas. He has been working as a TV analyst for ESPN, which first reported his plans. Hornets spokesman Harold Kaufman said the team has no comment and the 76ers said they do not comment on coaching searches. Johnson coached Dallas for three-plus seasons, going 194-70 in the regular season and 23-24 in the playoffs. He guided the Mavs to the NBA finals in 2006, but was fired after a first-round playoff series loss to New Orleans in 2008. The Sixers and Hornets both missed the playoffs this season. Philadelphia fired coach Eddie Jordan after finishing with a 27-55 record. Hornets general manager Jeff Bower, who stepped in as coach after Byron Scott was fired nine games into the season, went back to the front office full time after New Orleans wound up 37-45. The next Hornets coach likely will work under new ownership.

Halladay blanks Mets for second shutout



PHILADELPHIA

(AP)—Roy Halladay threw a three-hitter for his second shutout in three starts and Shane Victorino hit a three-run homer as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Mets 10-0 Saturday to end New York's eight-game winning streak.

Halladay (5-1) struck out six, walked one and recorded his 17th career shutout in his first outing since sustaining his first loss with the Phillies at San Francisco last Monday. The six-time All-Star right-hander went the distance for the third time this season.

Giants 6, Rockies 1

At San Francisco, Matt Cain gave up one hit over eight innings and Juan Uribe hit a three-run homer as the Giants improved to 6-2 on their nine-game homestand.

Aubrey Huff and Bengie Molina also homered for San Francisco, while Cain struck out eight and walked three while earning his first win of the season. Cain (1-1) won for the first time since Sept. 27, 2009, throwing 123 pitches — his most since Aug. 20, 2008.

Braves 10, Astros 1

At Atlanta, Troy Glaus drove in four runs, rookie Jason Heyward homered again and Tim Hudson pitched well into the seventh inning for the Braves.

Hudson (2-1) allowed five hits and one run with two walks and one strikeout in 6 2-3 innings. The right-hander faced the minimum over his last 12 batters before Peter Moylan, the first of three Atlanta relievers, replaced him with two out in the seventh.

Cardinals 6, Reds 3

At St. Louis, Skip Schumaker singled to break an eighth-inning deadlock after the Reds twice rallied to level the score.

Albert Pujols had an RBI double and added one of two bases-loaded walks in a three-run eighth for the Cardinals. Pujols is 9 of 17 with three doubles and four RBIs the first six games of a seven-game homestand.

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Winless for almost 12 years on the PGA Tour, Billy Mayfair will take whatever he can get.

There was that Friday game he won a few weeks ago at Whisper Rock, the Arizona club where members include Geoff Ogilvy and Paul Casey. He won a match against his wife, a good college player. And he won a qualifier Monday, significant because it gave Mayfair a tee time in the Quail Hollow Championship.

Now comes a chance for the real thing.

Mayfair kept the ball in play Saturday and kept the lead at Quail Hollow, shooting a 1-under 71 to take a two-shot lead over Masters champion Phil Mickelson and Carolina favorite Davis Love III.

A victory would be his first since the 1998 Buick Open, and the first time a Monday qualifier won on the PGA Tour since Fred Wadsworth in the 1986 Southern Open.

"Today was a real test for me," Mayfair said. "I kept it going for 18 holes and still have the lead going into tomorrow."

It is hard for Mayfair not to get caught up in the possibilities.

He lost his PGA Tour card after the worst season of his career, and a vic-



Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Roy Halladay, left, celebrates with catcher Carlos Ruiz after pitching a complete game in the Phillies, 10-0 win over the New York Mets in a baseball game, Saturday, May 1, 2010, in Philadelphia.

Cubs 7, Diamondbacks 5

At Chicago, Alfonso Soriano homered and Derrek Lee delivered the go-ahead two-run single as the Cubs rallied from three down again to beat Arizona.

Soriano's two-run shot off former Cubs pitcher Bob Howry in the seventh leveled it at 5, and Lee made it 7-5 with a two-run bases-loaded single in the eighth off Juan Gutierrez (0-3).

Marlins 7, Nationals 1

At Miami, Chris Volstad pitched a four-hitter for the second complete game of

his career as Florida broke a three-game losing streak.

Hanley Ramirez had three hits, including an RBI double and a two-run homer. Jorge Cantu added a two-run homer.

Brewers 2, Padres 1

At San Diego, Trevor Hoffman got back on track by earning his first save as a visitor at Petco Park and Yovani Gallardo homered and struck out 11 over seven strong innings to lead Milwaukee.

Hoffman, who became baseball's ca-

Mayfair clings to lead at Quail Hollow

tory would sure take care of that. He only got into Quail Hollow because of a Monday qualifier that he almost missed. Mayfair was late arriving in Charlotte, had to race to the course to make his tee time and then shot a 65, his best score of the year.

All that's left is to hold off Mickelson, Love and a collection of players who have won far more recently than Mayfair.

"I've got to put it out of my mind," he said.

"I've got to use my 21 years of experiences out here, and I've got to say,

"You know what? I've been out here. I'm a tour veteran, I've got a lot of veterans that are chasing me. I've been doing this for a long time, and I know what I need to do tomorrow and how to handle it. And try to do the best I can."

He has been good enough so far, finishing three rounds at 9-under 207. It's his first 54-hole lead in four years.

Mickelson, in his first start since winning a third green jacket, overcame food poisoning at the start of the week



and a few errant shots to put himself in a great position to join a strong list of champions at Quail Hollow. He birdied the par 5s on the back nine, and he closed with a tough two-putt from 60 feet for a 71.

He made par, and he made a point.

It was such an impossible putt that Mickelson told his caddie to leave the pin in the cup because he wasn't aiming at

the hole, wanting to avoid any chance of the ball going down a slope. Instead, he hit it well to the right, then made about a 6-foot-er for par.

"For as beautifully designed as this golf course is tee to green, the greens are by far the worst designed greens we play on tour," Mickelson said. "Even though they're in immaculate shape, I would say that 18 would be the worst green that we have on tour, except that it's not even the worst on this golf course - 12 is."

Love birdied three of his last five holes for a 4-under 68 and will play in the final group with Mayfair.

reer saves leader while with the Padres, had blown four of seven opportunities this year, including in consecutive games earlier in the week.

Dodgers 5, Pirates 1

At Los Angeles, Andre Ethier hit a three-run homer and scored on James Loney's double, leading Los Angeles over Pittsburgh.

Carlos Monasterios came out of the Dodgers' bullpen to make his first major league start, throwing 73 pitches over four innings while allowing a run and three hits.

White Sox 7, Yankees 6

At New York, Andruw Jones hit two more homers off a shaky Javier Vazquez and A.J. Pierzynski hit a go-ahead double as the Chicago White Sox beat the New York Yankees.

The Yankees' three-game winning streak ended, and they also lost center fielder Curtis Granderson. He strained his left groin while dashing on a hit-and-run single, badly hobbled into third and went to a hospital for an MRI exam.

Orioles 12, Red Sox 9

At Baltimore, Ty Wigginton and Matt Wieters homered in a six-run fifth inning against Daisuke Matsuzaka as the Orioles ensured their first series win of the season.

The teams had nine homers, including two each by Wigginton and Boston's David Ortiz.

Matsuzaka (0-1) gave up seven runs, six earned, in 4 2-3 innings. The right-hander was making his season debut after spending a month on the disabled list with a neck strain.

Royals 4, Rays 2, 11 innings

At St. Petersburg, Alberto Callaspo hit a two-run double in the 11th inning as the Royals handed the Rays just their fourth loss in 18 games.

Rays reliever Lance Cormier (2-1) got the first two batters out in the 11th before loading the bases on a single and two walks. Callaspo then doubled

down the right-field line, scoring Scott Podsednik and Alex Gordon to give Kansas City the lead.

Rangers 6, Mariners 3

At Seattle, Mariners ace Felix Hernandez saw his string of 18 consecutive quality starts ended in his shortest outing in nearly a calendar year as Matt Harrison dazzled for Texas.

Hernandez (1-1) lasted just 4 1-3 innings, and was tagged for five runs and eight hits by the Rangers. It was the first time since May 9 of last season that Hernandez failed to go at least five innings and ended a string of quality starts dating to Aug. 1.

Tigers 3, Angels 2

At Detroit, Johnny Damon's first homer in a Tigers uniform came in the ninth inning and gave them a 3-2 win over the Angels.

Damon's one-out shot came on a 2-0 pitch from Scot Shields (0-1), who came in to start the ninth inning. Shields retired Austin Jackson before Damon homered to right field, making a winner of Ryan Perry (1-1), who retired the final two batters in the top of the ninth.

Indians 5, Twins 4, 11 innings

At Cleveland, Asdrubal Cabrera's bases-loaded single with two outs in the 11th inning gave Cleveland a victory over Minnesota.

Jhonny Peralta hit an early homer for Cleveland and helped set up the winning run with a double. The Indians scored twice in the eighth to tie it, overcoming home runs by Justin Morneau and Denard Span.

Athletics 4, Blue Jays 3

At Toronto, rookie catcher Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer, Gio Gonzalez won his second straight start and the Athletics ended a four-game skid.

The homer was the first major league hit for Donaldson, who was called up from Triple-A on Friday when Kurt Suzuki went on the 15-day disabled list.

Tour. That was in the 1998 Nissan Open, and he won the Buick Open later that year. That was his last victory.

He was tested the most Saturday in the middle of his round, hitting his tee shot into the creek on the par-5 seventh and making a bogey as his lead dropped to one shot. He made a tough par after hitting a tree with his tee shot on the next hole, made a good par save on the ninth, then hit a wedge to about 6 feet for birdie on the 10th.

"Once I birdied 10, I kept the momentum going," Mayfair said.

Mickelson didn't have much and was happy to shoot the score he did. He made birdie after hitting a spectator in the head on the par-5 10th, and despite not feeling crisp, made only three bogeys.

Mickelson has never won in his first start after the Masters.

"I didn't have it today," Mickelson said. "I didn't have great control over my ball-striking and missed a number of putts that I probably could have made. But I controlled the misses, I kept the round in check, and because of the difficult conditions was able to shoot a number that kept me in contention for Sunday. So I'm excited about my opportunities tomorrow."

CUKI

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what I did was used my quickness, gave him several kicks to the body and legs and tried to bring him down to the ground," said Alvarez, who remained unbeaten in six fights.

WORLD

From Page 28

off in a single-elimination first round playoffs.

World Resort notched its 11th win despite playing without Wowie Abuel. Rocyl Ritual provided the needed offense for World Resort, tallying a game-high 28 points. Juluis Tabamo made up for Abuel's absence, chipping in 23 and hitting four triples.

SGH/Docomo 89, Pepsi 83

In the first game on Friday, Saipan Grand Hotel/Docomo kept its playoff bid alive after beating Pepsi, 89-83.

SGH/Docomo ended the regular season with a 4-10 record for the 13th spot in the team standings. Pepsi dropped to a

Alvarez was successful in his tactics and managed to hold Bamba down midway in the first round. However, Bamba moved out of the danger zone, stood up, and traded kicks with Alvarez.

Entering the final minute of the first round, Alvarez caught Bamba again and this time the

3-8 record for 12th place and if it loses its three remaining games, SGH/Docomo will get the last playoff seat.

James Villacrusis and Gerald Maliwanag teamed up in SGH/Docomo's crucial win, firing 24 and 18 markers, respectively. Maliwanag drilled 10 of his total points in the first period to give SGH/Docomo a 27-18 lead. Villacrusis took over in the second canto, nailing nine to pad the lead to 20 at the break, 50-30.

SGH/Docomo hung in there in the second half to boost its playoffs chances.

McGraw Hill 85, PIC 79

In the second game, McGraw-Hill capitalized on a depleted PIC to post an 85-79 victory.

PIC was without big men Darwin Barbo and Rex Yabut

latter found no way out and was forced to wave the flag.

"It was nice to be back and win a tough fight," Alvarez said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. "I will try to keep this tough form and hopefully get into more fights in the future."

Alvarez was one of the two

and gunner James Abuy, leaving Woon Joo Jung as the lone double-figurer scorer for the team with his 39 points.

McGraw-Hill worked on its advantage early and took a 19-12 lead at the end of the first period. The Jerry Diaz-coached team kept the driver's seat in the last three quarters with Peter Mendiola, Walter Mendez, and Diaz canning double figures. Mendiola logged 23 points, Mendez added 20, and Diaz contributed 17.

McGraw-Hill now has a 5-7 record, while PIC absorbed its third straight loss, dropping to a 6-7 slate.

FRIDAY First Game

SGH/Docomo 89 – Villacrusis 24, Maliwanag 18, Lee 16, Sison 16, Sablan 10, De Leon 5.

Pepsi 83 – Lansang 30, Lau-ron 29, Garon 13, Obnimaga 4,

CNMI fighters scheduled to appear in PXC 19. The other one was Kelvin "The Big" Hit Fatial, but his main event bout against Roke Martinez was called off after the latter suffered an injury from a previous fight in Japan.

There were 11 bouts in PXC 19 with Joe Taimanglo and Alex Castro winning in the

Cepeda 4, Babauta 3.

Scoring by quarters: 27-18, 50-30, 75-55, 89-83.

Second Game

McGraw-Hill 85 – Men-diola 20, Mendez 20, Diaz 17, Cabrera 9, Buniag 8, Matson 4, Hideo 4.

PIC 79 – Jung 39, Baculod 8, Williams 8, Baterina 8, K. Bar-bo 8, Babauta 6, Pepito 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-12, 40-35, 67-53, 85-79.

SATURDAY

World Resort/Advance 90 – Ritual 28, Tabamo 23, Olaiti-man 12, Wabinga 9, Paras 9, Es-piritu 4, Navarro 3, Aquino 2.

Cell Pro 70 – Hernandez 21, Rotap 18, Dulfo 13, Villanueva 6, J. Loste 6, Guevarra 4 G. Loste 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-16, 37-31, 62-50, 90-70.

Mayweather's best-laid plans when he landed the big right hand in the second that brought the fans at the MGM Grand Arena to their feet. They chanted "Mosley! Mosley!" as he followed Mayweather around the ring, landing another good right hand before the bell rang to end the round.

"It's a contact sport, and you're going to get hit," Mayweather said. "But when you get hit, you suck it up and keep on fighting. That's what I did. I'm happy we finally had a chance to fight. This is a fight the fans have been looking forward to for a long time, and they deserve it."

Mosley's second-round flourish was his last hurrah. Mayweather came out in the third and began landing some shots of his own, while Mosley couldn't find his mark.

"I caught him with my big right hand and I tried to move around but by that time he was too quick and I was too tight," Mosley said. "After the right hand I thought I needed to knock him out and I needed to do it sooner than later. But I couldn't adjust and he did."

Mosley almost ruined a lot of

scheduled at the Hopwood Ju-nior High School Field had to be called off due to too much smoke engulfing the area.

A fire broke in As Perdido Saturday with thick smoke reaching Hopwood and prompting organizers to halt the festivities after a few games were already played.

Northern Mariana Island Football Association officials said they will review their schedule first to see if they can reset the U11 football festival. Two more festivals are sched-uled this month with U14 play-ers having theirs on May 8 and the U18 on May 15.

two main event bouts against Korean Top Team's Bae Chan Ho and Hwang Kyo Pyung, re-spectively. Other winners were

Jason Adams, Justin Cruz, Rob Washington, Joseph Camacho, Brandon Taijeron, Mike Vid-dauri, and Derek Hattori.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**NBA LEADERS****Scoring**

	G	FG	FT	PTS	Avg
Wade, MIA	5	.62	.27	166	33.2
James, CLE	6	.67	.44	194	32.3
Anthony, DEN	6	.64	.50	184	30.7
Rose, CHI	5	.57	.18	134	26.8
Nowitzki, DAL	6	.58	.40	160	26.7
Williams, UTA	6	.43	.56	155	25.8
Durant, OKC	6	.43	.54	150	25.0
Nelson, ORL	4	.30	.23	95	23.8
Bryant, LAL	6	.49	.31	141	23.5
Richardson, PHX	6	.49	.21	141	23.5
Johnson, ATL	6	.56	.20	138	23.0
Boozer, UTA	6	.60	.15	135	22.5
Westbrook, OKC	6	.43	.32	123	20.5
Stoudemire, PHX	6	.46	.31	123	20.5
Billups, DEN	6	.37	.37	122	20.3
Butler, DAL	6	.43	.25	118	19.7
Jennings, MIL	6	.43	.19	116	19.3
Ginobili, SAN	6	.35	.34	114	19.0
Aldridge, POR	6	.40	.33	114	19.0
Deng, CHI	5	.37	.19	94	18.8

FG Percentage

	FG	Fgapct
Thomas, CHA	15	.24 .625
Millsap, UTA	41	.67 .612
Boozer, UTA	60	.103 .583
Bynum, LAL	31	.54 .574
Wade, MIA	62	.110 .564
James, CLE	67	.121 .554
Nowitzki, DAL	58	.106 .547
Stoudemire, PHX	46	.85 .541
Horford, ATL	41	.76 .539
Garnett, BOS	35	.65 .538

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	Avg
Boozer, UTA	6	16	64	80	13.3
Noah, CHI	5	20	45	65	13.0
Gasol, LAL	6	20	53	73	12.2
Jos. Smith, ATL	6	21	42	63	10.5
Camby, POR	6	16	44	60	10.0
Millsap, UTA	6	18	41	59	9.8
Duncan, SAN	6	16	41	57	9.5
Howard, ORL	4	13	24	37	9.3
Horford, ATL	6	19	35	54	9.0
Wallace, CHA	4	2	34	36	9.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Williams, UTA	6	68	11.3
Rondo, BOS	6	63	10.5
Nash, PHX	6	59	9.8
James, CLE	6	48	8.0
Rose, CHI	5	36	7.2
Kidd, DAL	6	42	7.0
Wade, MIA	5	34	6.8
Billups, DEN	6	38	6.3
Johnson, ATL	6	36	6.0
Westbrook, OKC	6	36	6.0

MLB STANDINGS**AMERICAN LEAGUE****East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	17	7	.708	—
New York	15	8	.652	1 1/2
Toronto	12	13	.480	5 1/2
Boston	11	13	.458	6
Baltimore	6	18	.250	11

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	15	9	.625	

The Week in Sports

Last week's tennis and golf tournaments featured new winners, who shared center stage with perennial victors in a bike race and Little League baseball.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association held the annual CNMI Junior Tennis Championships with four new winners this year—Jake Lee, Mikayla Lopez, Luther Lizama, Carol Lee, and Benjie Decena.

Lee, who was third in the same tournament last year, finished on top of the boys U14 age group this year, while Lopez debuted strong in the girls U14, beating erstwhile champion Melody Johnson. Lizama and Lee were also first time cham-

New and old winners share spotlight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

pions in the annual event, ruling the boys and girls U10 division, respectively.

Decena, who was a semifinalist last year, prevailed in the boys U18, thwarting Rafael Jones in the finals. Thea Minor took the girls U18 championship, keeping the title she won last year.

In the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament played on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Korean golfer Jong Won Lee won over defending champion

Seong Woo Kang and 2004 winner Jeff Taylor.

Lee placed fourth in his debut in the annual fundraiser last year, but came in first this time after shooting a 1-over par 73 for a five-stroke lead over Kang (78) and 14 shots better than Taylor.

In the Mieko Carey Mountain Bike Fundraising Race, a familiar face ruled the long course event with Butch Sublemente prevailing over runner-up Bob Ferrer and third placer Tyce Mister. The fundraising race

drew 67 old and new riders.

The ongoing Saipan Little League Baseball also had the old favorites delivering with Ol'Aces still unbeaten in 10 games in the Majors division. Other winners in the Majors were the Lions, Athletics, and Dragons.

In the Junior League, defending champions Docomo Patriots are also unbeaten in 10 matches, following a win over Northern. Ol'Aces and Hustlers also prevailed in the Junior League last week.

Still in baseball, the Saipan Major League had already started its playoff with the Fielders and Brewers beating the Falcons and Rangers, respectively, in Game 1 of their separate semi series.

In basketball, the Shirley's caging continued with defending champion Micronesian Brothers, Inc. winning over Pepsi in overtime, 89-86, to boost its pennant bid. Other winners of important games last week were Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan,

Saipan Grand Hotel/Docomo, and McGraw-Hill.

Still in basketball, the 2010 MBFNMI 35A Masters Basketball League played its third week at the Gilbert C. Ad Gymnasium with Easy Does It leading the winners list in Week 3.

Other leagues on Saipan continued with the NMIFA youth league nearing completion of the regular season of the U14 and U18 division and the NMIFA men's league almost done with the second round of the four-round robin competition.

The 2010 IT&E Singles/Mixed Doubles Badminton Competition is also in the crucial stage of its tournament, as teams/players were fighting for playoffs spots last week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Korean golfer Jong Won Lee takes his time before teeing off at No. 13 during the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament played on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Dick Guintu is one of the players in the IT&E singles/doubles tournament vying for playoff slots in the men's A singles.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MBI/Dial Full Force's Noel David, right, drives baseline against Pepsi's Ian Obnimaga during their game in the Shirley's caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jake Lee hits a low ball during his U14 finals game against Chris Cajigan in the 2010 CNMI Junior Tennis Champions at the American Memorial Park tennis court last week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Docomo Patriots runner is on third base, hoping to reach home plate against Northern during a game in the Junior League division of the SLLB at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Butch Sublemente makes his turn to the finish line at Paupau during the Mieko Carey Mountain Bike Fundraising Race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Easy Does It's Joe Tudela, center, beats Team 12's Ed Cosino, and teammate Oscar Sablan for the rebound during their game in the 2010 MBFNMI 35A Masters Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



LeBron, Cavs
elbow past
Celtics in
Game 1

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Saipan Tribune Sports



28 MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cuki stops foe in PXC 19

Mayweather dominates Mosley, stays unbeaten



Floyd Mayweather Jr., right, connects with a left against Shane Mosley, during their WBA welterweight boxing match Saturday, May 1, 2010, in Las Vegas. Mayweather Jr. beat Shane Mosley in a unanimous decision.

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Floyd Mayweather Jr. is usually content to just win a fight. This time, though, Money Mayweather wanted to earn his cash.

Fighting more aggressively than usual, Mayweather overcame a near knockdown in the second round Saturday night to dominate the rest of the way and win



a lopsided 12-round decision over Shane Mosley in their welterweight showdown.

"I wanted to give the fans what they wanted to see, a toe-to-toe battle," Mayweather said. "It wasn't the same style for me but I wanted to be aggressive and I knew I could do it."

Boxing's biggest box office draw remained undefeated in 41 fights, but not before giving his fans and his cor-

See MAYWEATHER on Page 26

Football festival draws more than 100 youth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Players in the U6 and U8 age group capped the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Spring League with a whole day of fun and football at the San Antonio Elementary School Field.

More than 100 players from the five football



clubs in the CNMI played as early as 8am and braved the scorching heat, trading kicks and chasing balls until 4pm.

In the bigger U8 field, Tan Holdings FC-1 swept all three games, beating MP United Blue, Matansa T-1, and Independents. All teams played three games, but results were not recorded, as

See FOOTBALL on Page 26



A Matansa player is sandwiched by two MP United defenders during their game in the U6 football festival on Saturday at the San Antonio Elementary School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After an absence of almost two years, Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez returned to the octagon cage victorious, beating Guam's Wyenue "One Time" Bamba during a supporting bout in PXC 19 on Saturday night at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

Nicknamed the "Flying Cockroach," Alvarez stopped Bamba in the 4:22 mark of the first round on a north-south Kimura armlock.

It was Alvarez's second appearance in PXC, as he debuted in Guam's MMA action in December 2007 through PXC 13:



Back from the Dead when he defeated Brian Howard via arm triangle choke submission in the second round.

When he returned to UOG, about two years after his last fight in the octagon cage (2008's Gorilla Warfare on Saipan), Alvarez said he was in top form.

"I was in a fighting mode. Although I haven't been fighting for about two years since my victory against Pete Guerrero in August 2008, I have been training and conditioning myself while teaching other MMA fighters regularly," Alvarez said.

Against Bamba, Alvarez said his fight plan was to stay away from his foe's strong punches.

"He is known as a knockout artist, someone who loves to trade punches against his foe. So,

See CUKI on Page 26

Cuki Alvarez saw action in the PXC 19 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse on Saturday and stopped Wyenue "One Time" Bamba in the first round.

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World Resort/Advance crushes Cell Pro

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's COFFEE SHOP

World Resort/Advance ended its regular season campaign in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on a winning note, whipping Cellular Pro, 90-70, on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

World Resort finished the round-robin elimination with an 11-3 record and is currently in second place in the team standings behind Micronesian Brokers, Inc. (10-2). The win assured World Resort a spot in the Top 4, giving the Advance X-Terminators-backed squad a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

Cell Pro remained winless in 13 games and is already eliminated. Only the Top 12 teams will advance to the next round with the Top 4 getting a bye and the remaining eight squaring

See WORLD on Page 26

World Resort/Advance's Patrick Paras fakes off the defense of Cellular Pro's Roy Hernandez during their game in the Shirley's caging on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

